United Nations A/71/PV.92

General Assembly

Seventy-first session

Official Records

92nd plenary meeting
Wednesday, 19 July 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Thomson ..... (Fiji)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 51 (*continued*)

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/71/495/Add.1)

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) that is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of position. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendations of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. I would like to remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, that is, either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

I would like to remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of position or vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take decisions in the same manner as was done in the Committee, unless notified otherwise in advance.

The Assembly will now consider the report (A/71/495/Add.1) of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) on agenda item 51, entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".

The General Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in paragraph 6 of that report.

The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 71/314).

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The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 51.

Agenda item 62 (*continued*)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Draft resolution (A/71/L.67/Rev.1)

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ecuador to introduce draft resolution A/71/L.67/Rev.1.

Mr. Zambrano Ortíz (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/71/L.67/Rev.1, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa".

This new draft resolution recognizes that there has been notable progress in achieving durable and sustainable peace in Africa. However, in order to achieve a conflict-free African continent, the draft resolution calls for enhancing national and regional efforts and initiatives with international support to respond to conflicts in a peaceful and effective manner.

On behalf of our Group, I would like to thank our coordinators from Mauritania and Egypt, and the facilitator from Morocco, for their work during the negotiations, as well as all of the parties who constructively participated during the negotiation of the text, thereby making it possible to achieve consensus on this important draft resolution.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/71/L.67/Rev. 1, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa". The draft resolution is now closed for e-sponsorship.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Nakano (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, in addition to those delegations listed in document A/71/L.67/Rev.1, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt draft resolution A/71/L.67/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/71/L.67/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 71/315).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 62?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 122 (*continued*)

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council

The President: Members will recall that, pursuant to General Assembly decision 70/559, of 27 July 2016, the Assembly has continued intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary meetings during the current session.

In a letter date 11 July, I circulated, for consideration by Member States, language for a draft oral decision on this issue.

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to, first, reaffirm the central role of the General Assembly concerning the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council; secondly, to immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in informal plenary of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, as mandated by Assembly decisions 62/557, of 15 September 2008, 63/565 B, of 14 September 2009, 64/568, of 13 September 2010, 65/554, of 12 September 2011, 66/566, of 13 September 2012, 67/561, of 29 August 2013, 68/557, of 8 September 2014, 69/560, of 14 September 2015, and 70/559, of 27 July 2016, building on the informal meetings held during its seventy-first session, as well as the positions

of, and proposals made by, Member States, reflected in the text and its annex circulated on 31 July 2015, and using the elements of convergence circulated on 12 July 2016 and the elements of commonality and issues for further consideration circulated on 27 June 2017 to help inform its future work, while welcoming the active engagement, initiatives and intensive efforts of the President of the General Assembly and noting with appreciation the active role and concrete efforts of the co-Chairs undertaken in a consultative manner with a view to an early comprehensive reform of the Security Council; thirdly, to convene the Open-ended Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council and other Matters related to the Security Council during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, if Member States so decide; and, fourthly, to include in the agenda of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly the item entitled "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council"?

The draft oral decision was adopted (decision 71/553).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of position, I would like to remind delegations that explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Alotaibi (Kuwait) (*spoke in Arabic*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Arab States.

At the outset, allow me to express my deep appreciation to you, Mr. President, for guiding the work of the General Assembly and for the attention you have paid to one of the most important issues on the agenda, "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Security Council". I would also like to commend the efforts of the co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations — the Permanent Representative of Tunisia, Mr. Mohamed Khaled Khiari, and the Permanent Representative of Romania, Ambassador Ion Jinga — who sought to reach an understanding between the points of view of the various groups.

The Arab Group welcomes the consensus adoption of decision 71/553. I would like to assure the Assembly that the Group is keen to ensure that any attempts at intergovernmental negotiations enjoy unanimous acceptance, which reaffirms the position of the Arab Group. The Group calls for unity within the Group and rejects any attempts at negotiations that are not accepted by all States Members of the United Nations.

The Arab Group looks forward to continuing the debate within the intergovernmental negotiations during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, based on what has been achieved during previous sessions, in order to implement a comprehensive reform of the Security Council that reflects the positions of Member States, and in particular that of the Arab Group. The Group calls for a permanent seat with all the privileges that permanent membership brings. The Arab Group reaffirms its determination to continue positive negotiations during the upcoming General Assembly session in order to reach an agreed solution to the reform of the Security Council.

Mr. Sumah (Sierra Leone): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the member States of the African Union and to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your excellent leadership of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session. I would like to express our sincere appreciation to you for your unwavering commitment and dedication to reform of the Security Council.

The Group of African States remains steadfastly committed to comprehensive and meaningful reform of the Security Council. We also appreciate the efforts of the co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations during this session, Ambassadors Ion Jinga of Romania and Mohamed Khaled Khiari of Tunisia. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all States Members of the United Nations for the eloquent discussions that have led to our adoption by consensus just now of roll-over decision 71/533. I believe that decision is in the spirit of our efforts to preserve unity and mutual trust among the membership in moving forward the reform process of the Security Council, so that it can better serve humankind and conform with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

With regard to our letter of 10 July, responding to your letter, Mr. President, of 27 June, in which you circulated elements of commonality and issues for further consideration and discussion of the equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council, we conveyed to you our view that it was regrettable that the element paper as presented by the co-Chairs did not adequately reflect the letter and

spirit of the common African position on Security Council reform. We note with appreciation that the paper specifically mentions Africa's representation on a reformed Council. However, that understanding does not precisely reflect the accurate reports of the intergovernmental-negotiation meetings.

While the paper does attempt to reflect the tenor of the discussions specifically referring to Africa and the common African position, the African Group had expected the co-Chairs to reflect the fact that the common African position had garnered wide political acceptance during the current intergovernmental negotiations. In that regard, support for the allocation to Africa of seats in both categories of Council membership should have been highlighted. To that end, and as the process moves forward, the Africa Group would appreciate it if it were made very clear in any future intergovernmental negotiations outcome document that Africa should be represented in both the permanent and non-permanent categories on a reformed Council.

The African Group is pleased that the position of the proposals made by the Member States, as reflected in the framework document and its annex circulated by the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, will be rolled over to the seventy-second session. Africa will continue to engage constructively with all Member States in a spirit of mutual trust and respect, with a view to achieving comprehensive reform of the Security Council so as to enhance the legitimacy of its decisions. It is only through such reform that we can talk of a Security Council that is more representative, democratic, accountable, transparent, effective and efficient in carrying out its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations.

We look forward to a more constructive and forward-looking intergovernmental-negotiation process during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly and urge all Member States to work together to reach the widest possible political acceptance, in a manner that will promote our unity of purpose in maintaining the values and ideals of the founding fathers of the United Nations, a United Nations fit-for-purpose, with its continuing utility as the centre of global governance.

Mr. Braun (Germany): This being my last statement as Permanent Representative of Germany in the General Assembly, I have the honour and pleasure to speak today on behalf of the Group of Four — Brazil, India, Japan and my own country. I would like to make three points.

First of all, we thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership on the process of Security Council reform within the General Assembly at its seventy-first session. You guided us skilfully through the sometimes stormy waters of the intergovernmental-negotiation ocean and stayed the course, despite strong winds blowing from several directions at a time. You brought us one step further and ensured that we do not have to give up hope that we will eventually reach the shores of reform.

We also thank the co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations, Ambassadors Ion Jinga and Mohamed Khaled Khiari, for their efforts in steering the ship. They made us work hard; they made us question our positions and those of others; and in that way they made us carve out broadly supported commonalities and identify issues for further consideration. Their work is greatly appreciated.

Secondly, we support roll-over decision 71/553, which you presented, Mr. President, and the paper it contains entitled "Elements of commonality and issues for further consideration". Both the decision and the paper will help to direct the oars on our ship's course towards Council reform. The decision also highlights where we have come from, including the milestones achieved by the sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions, the framework document and the elements paper. Together with this year's document, they form the map for our course ahead.

Speaking of our course ahead, let me share a saying that fits our situation in the intergovernmental negotiations: "He who goes nowhere will never get anywhere, either". For us, its meaning is clear. We must move on from turning in circles. We must move on from our repetitions. We must move on from talking about negotiations to beginning real negotiations, based on a negotiating text.

That saying is from Romania and is highly relevant. It leads to my third and final point. To all of the well-deserved praise for the work of all present and of the intergovernmental-negotiation co-Chairs, I would like to add an appeal or, as some would say, to dilute the wine with some water. We cannot be completely satisfied with the outcome of the intergovernmental negotiations at the seventy-first session — not only because the General Assembly has not yet adopted a draft resolution reforming the Security Council, but

also because we have not even set our sails on the course of text-based negotiations. It is the beginning of this standard operating procedure for all other United Nations negotiations that is missing.

The ship of the intergovernmental negotiations seems to have its oars in the water on only one side. And so while all of us are rowing as hard as we can, we are moving in circles. Text-based negotiations will mean oars in the water on both sides of the ship and full speed ahead to the shores of actual reform. There is no need for the next captain of the intergovernmental negotiations to worry about taking that course. Almost all of the ship's crew — at least 164 out of 193 — have signed up for it and are ready to row.

The President: If this is indeed the last time that the representative of Germany will address the General Assembly, as President I would like to thank him, as one of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, for his sterling service to the Assembly at its seventy-first session.

Ms. King (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the L.69 group, a diverse group of countries made up largely of small States from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific that are united by the common cause of achieving lasting and comprehensive reform of the Security Council.

We would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership and stewardship of this process and for your guidance to the co-Chairs in the work undertaken on this crucial issue. We would also like to thank and congratulate the co-Chairs, Ambassadors Ion Jinga of Romania and Mohamed Khaled Khiari of Tunisia, for providing Member States with ample opportunities for substantive and interactive discussions during this session, which took place in a frank and cordial atmosphere. The document we have adopted today (decision 71/553) is an important contribution by the co-Chairs to this process and has the full support of our Group and, in our view, of the entire membership.

The General Assembly's consideration of this item began 25 years ago. We have adopted several documents in the past quarter of a century on the issue and the paper on elements of commonality and issues for further consideration reflects one more important addition to this montage of papers and documents. While we are glad that today we are marking the culmination of a year's work on this process by the Assembly on an important issue, in the broader scheme of things we have yet to begin our real work of negotiations and political give-and-take. And that, in our view, is not for want or will or substance but because of the obduracy of a minority unwilling to respect the larger sentiments of the General Assembly. In no other purportedly democratic space have we seen the wish of 85 per cent of the membership of an organization not lead to action.

Just as the Security Council is, in theory, accountable to the entire membership for its action or inaction, the General Assembly is accountable to the people of the United Nations for its action or lack thereof. At the end of 25 years of our consideration of this issue, we must take stock and honestly assess our progress. We must assess why, after all these years, we are carrying on with a fundamentally abnormal process. The principles of democracy and transparency could well suggest that we should hold our meetings in open format so that the international community and our young people can better ascertain what might be holding us back from acting on the wish of a majority of Member States.

The L.69 group, in its letter of 6 March, clearly demonstrated that more than 160 countries believe that the process at this stage has all the conditions needed to build on the work of previous sessions and advance to text-based negotiations. We are ready and eager to negotiate, discuss, resolve issues and move forward on this crucial and important issue. We hope that our next step will be to normalize this process and begin text-based negotiations, so that a compromise solution that enjoys the widest possible political acceptance can emerge through the process. In that regard, we hope that at the next session we will begin from where we left off at this session, and not attempt yet again to reinvent the wheel.

I would like to end with a wise quote from an important tradition of the East:

> "Let not the fruit of action be your motive to action. Your business is with action alone, not the fruit of action."

I wish for all of us to be guided in doing the right thing. That alone will determine the fruits of our action. That alone will alleviate our fears and hesitation. We hope that together we will rise to the call of our collective wisdom and reform the Security Council sooner rather than later.

Ms. Lodhi (Pakistan): On behalf of the Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group, I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for your leadership during the seventy-first session of the General Assembly. I would also like to commend the intergovernmental negotiations co-Chairs, Ambassadors Khiari and Jinga, for the transparent and inclusive manner in which they discharged their duties. Their stewardship fostered a constructive atmosphere during this session of the intergovernmental negotiations that enabled all delegations to engage in frank and substantive discussions.

Today we have agreed to continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform, building on the work undertaken by Member States throughout the intergovernmental-negotiation process. In fact, all sessions of the intergovernmental negotiations have made important contributions to the reform process, with a view to reaching a solution that can garner the widest possible consensus among Member States.

During this session of the intergovernmental negotiations, discussions among Member States allowed the co-Chairs to identify commonalities and issues for further consideration, as reflected in the document they authored. The document has not been endorsed or adopted by Member States, but we acknowledge its contribution to a consensus solution. Like others, the UfC group shared its views on the elements of the document, including on the commonalities that clearly need further deliberation. In that regard, we wish to stress that, regardless of its placement in the document, the expansion in other categories of membership is an issue that requires further consideration. Nonetheless, just as you, Mr. President, underlined in your letter dated 27 June, we also believe that the document of the co-Chairs can be considered as a step in the right direction.

At the beginning of this negotiating session, we urged the membership to work on a common definition of the principles that should inspire Security Council reform. As this session comes to a close, we are more convinced than ever that, once consensus on those principles has been reached, the next stages of the reform process will be more fluid. In that regard, we are glad to acknowledge the repeated references in the co-Chairs' document to the principles underpinning Security Council reform. However, we were surprised at the opposition shown by some delegations to the inclusion of the two cardinal principles of democracy and representation as commonalities. Confronted with that opposition to the fundamental principles promoted by the United Nations, the co-Chairs were forced to keep them as issues that need further consideration with a view to achieving the objective of a more democratic Security Council. The UfC group firmly believes that a serious discussion on those two key principles for Security Council reform cannot be postponed any further. Therefore, it is our expectation that Member States will finally be given such an opportunity during the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

Last November, during the debate on Security Council reform (see A/71/PV.42 and A/71/PV.43), we recall that no Member State disagreed with the idea of adding new non-permanent seats on the Council and favouring the underrepresented regions, and that a significant and growing number of Member States opposed an expansion of the veto. Today we acknowledge the conclusion of the co-Chairs that the expansion in the number of non-permanent members is accepted by all Member States as part of a comprehensive reform of all five clusters indicated by decision 62/557. We also agree that the question of the veto is a key element of Security Council reform. If there continues to be a sharp and enduring disagreement among Member States on this issue, it is because of the demand for additional permanent seats.

Today, as we were in last November, we are persuaded that there is common ground that can help us find the solution to finally unlock the reform process. Flexibility and a spirit of compromise can lead the General Assembly to the consensus on sustainable reform of the Security Council that we have been striving for. Building on those bases, the UfC group looks forward to engaging in future negotiations in the sincere conviction that Security Council reform is possible and within reach.

Ms. Bogyay (Hungary): Hungary commends you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting, and we welcome the adoption of decision 71/553, which allows for continued efforts to reform the Security Council.

We would like to thank the co-Chairs, Ambassadors Khiari and Jinga, for guiding us through this cycle, and to acknowledge their hard work on the food-for-thought paper until the very last minute. We believe that the paper is a good complement to the documents prepared by the previous facilitators of the process, and

we would like to see efforts in that regard continue in the coming cycle.

The seventy-second session of the General Assembly will mark the twenty-fifth year since the adoption of landmark resolution 47/62, on the need for Security Council reform, as well as the tenth anniversary of the launch of the intergovernmental negotiations process. Our strong preference would be to honour the next important session by building on the momentum gained this year, and by clarifying commonalities and questions for further consideration so that we can finally start negotiations that are based on a consolidated text.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that Hungary takes a positive view of this year's outcome and stands ready to contribute actively to the next intergovernmental-negotiation process so as to enable it to go even further.

Mr. Moustafa (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, the delegation of Egypt aligns itself with the statements delivered previously by the Permanent Representatives of Kuwait and Sierra Leone on behalf of the Group of Arab States and the Group of African States, respectively. I would also like to make the following comments in my national capacity.

Egypt expresses its deep appreciation to you, Mr. President, for your efforts and commitment throughout your presidency of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, as well as for your efforts to push forward the Security Council reform agenda, an issue of particular interest to all Member States. I would also like to express our gratitude to the two co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations, Ambassadors Ion Jinga, Permanent Representative of Romania, and Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Permanent Representative of Tunisia, for their commitment to achieving true progress in the intergovernmental-negotiation process and for their efforts to bring the positions of various countries and groups together.

We appreciate the consensus achieved on decision 71/553, which reflects the collective commitment to intergovernmental negotiations as the sole mechanism for achieving just, comprehensive Security Council reform. The consensus also reflects the desire of all members to work together to build a broader political space that will ultimately lead to Security Council reform, as a cornerstone of United Nations reform as a whole, in order to enable the Organization to meet its current challenges and fulfil the purposes of the Charter.

Today's decision will enable us to continue our work in the context of the intergovernmental negotiations during the next session of the General Assembly. We must consider the guiding principles laid out in decision 62/557, which launched the intergovernmental-negotiation process. The first of them is that the intergovernmental negotiations are a Member State-led and -owned process and that the various positions of the different groups form the basis for the negotiations.

That said, if any document resulting from the various meetings and rounds of negotiations is to enjoy consensus, it must fully reflect the Common African Position, in line with the Sirte Declaration, and Africa's request for adequate representation in the various categories of Security Council membership, including two permanent seats, in order to rectify the historical injustice that Africa has suffered and allow it to participate effectively in the maintenance of international peace and security. The document should also fully reflect the position of the Group of Arab States, which requests a permanent seat in any future expansion of permanent Council seats.

Furthermore, the decision also confirms the importance of arriving at a solution that will preserve the links and connections between the five groups involved in the negotiations in order to achieve the broadest possible agreement among Member States. Egypt welcomes the documents that have shed further light on the positions and commonalities of Member States and has also identified controversial issues, which remain quite numerous. Egypt looks forward to the continuation of those efforts during the next round of intergovernmental negotiations.

The discussions that have taken place at this meeting highlight the importance of in-depth talks on the principles and norms that form the basis of the intergovernmental negotiations, as has been reiterated on many occasions by several groups, including the Arab and African Groups, in order to make the direction that the intergovernmental process will take going forward as clear as possible and for Member States to agree as much as possible on Security Council reform issues.

In conclusion, Egypt is ready to continue working constructively with all countries and groups during

the seventy-second session of the General Assembly in order to strengthen unity among Member States and take further steps towards the reform we all seek.

Mrs. Bannis-Roberts (Dominica): I have the honour to deliver my brief remarks on behalf of the 14 States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

CARICOM welcomes the adoption by consensus of decision 71/553, aimed at reaffirming the central role of the General Assembly on the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters, as well as immediately continuing intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform during the seventy-second session of the Assembly. We view this as a demonstration that Member States have an interest in sustaining the debate on reform of the Council, despite differences in their positions.

CARICOM looks forward to building on the informal meetings held during the seventy-first session of the Assembly and on the positions and proposals of Member States using the elements of convergence, circulated on 12 July 2016, and the elements of commonality and issues for further consideration, circulated on 27 June, to help inform the Assembly's future work.

We take this opportunity to commend the co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations, Ambassadors Ion Jinga and Mohamed Khaled Khiari, for their able stewardship of the negotiations during the seventy-first session and to thank you, Mr. President, for your commitment to the process of reform of the Security Council.

CARICOM reiterates its commitment to Security Council reform and will remain engaged in the work that lies ahead.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The General Assembly has just adopted oral decision 71/553, on a technical rollover of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform to the next session of the General Assembly.

Since the beginning of the year, the General Assembly has held five intergovernmental-negotiation meetings. Member States have discussed five clusters of issues and their inherent relationship in an overall positive atmosphere.Although differences remain, patient negotiation is itself constructive and conducive to gradually creating the conditions for achieving the broadest consensus possible. China thanks the President of the General Assembly and the co-Chairs of the intergovernmental negotiations for the role they have played in that regard.

The paper, which contained food for thought on elements of convergence and issues for further consideration and was issued by the co-Chairs, reflects the co-Chairs' understanding of Member States' positions on Security Council reform. There is no consensus on the elements paper and no official status for the intergovernmental negotiations because of the differences of opinion among the parties. The intergovernmental-negotiation process is the core platform for advancing Security Council reform, and the membership-driven principle is the bedrock for its healthy development. China expresses its appreciation to the co-Chairs for abiding by that principle.

Since 2009, the membership has actively participated in the negotiations and put forward positions, proposals and suggestions in a constructive effort to advance the process of Security Council reform. These proposals and suggestions are a means for all Member States to meet halfway and seek consensus. Security Council reform has a bearing on the real interests of all Member States and cannot be accomplished overnight. Only many years of effort and continued patient work in the context of the intergovernmental-negotiation platform will enable us to gradually narrow our differences until we have reached the broadest possible consensus.

China hopes that at the next session of the General Assembly the intergovernmental-negotiation group will continue to abide by the mandate assigned by resolution 62/557, the membership-driven principle and the package solution idea, thus making fresh efforts to enable Member States to reach the broadest possible consensus on Security Council reform. China will continue to work jointly with all Member States to take Security Council reform forward in a direction that accords with the common interests of all members and the long-term interests of the United Nations.

Mr. Safronkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Mr. President, I would like to thank you for convening today's meeting and for your responsible leadership of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session. We are grateful to you for decision 71/553, on the rollover of the consideration of Security Council reform to the seventy-second session. This issue is one

of the most important on the Organization's agenda, as the Council is the body that under the Charter of the United Nations has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

At the same time, as discussions during the current session have shown, the positions of Member States on certain aspects remain fundamentally different, indeed opposed. It is evident that given the major political significance of the issue of Security Council reform, we must continue to seek a solution that would enjoy much broader support from Member States than the formally required two-thirds vote. Ideally it should be a consensus-based decision, and the discussions should in any case be carried out constructively, transparently and openly, without any artificially imposed timelines.

We would like to recall that developing countries in Asia and Africa should be first in line to receive additional seats on the Security Council. We believe that they have the potential to make a significant contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security. Most importantly, this will ensure that future decisions of the Council are balanced.

We firmly believe that all five aspects of Security Council reform should be discussed in their entirety. Any attempt to isolate specific issues risks eroding the package approach that lies at the basis of negotiations and has been agreed to by all. We also want to emphasize that the process should not be moved forward through the imposition of facilitators' texts, negotiation documents or other initiatives that do not enjoy consensus. Previous sessions of the General Assembly have shown the futility and danger of attempts to arrive at a solution without taking into account the full scope of positions.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our co-Chairs, Ion Jinga of Romania and Mohamed Khaled Khiari of Tunisia, who put significant effort into their role during the seventy-first session.

Mr. Gafoor (Singapore): Mr. President, I would like first of all to thank you for the priority you have given to the issue of Security Council reform and for your leadership and engagement in the reform process. We would also like to place on record our appreciation to Ambassadors Ion Jinga of Romania and Mohamed Khaled Khiari of Tunisia for their hard work and leadership of the work of the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform in an inclusive, transparent and efficient manner. Their able stewardship of the process culminated with the co-Chairs' paper, entitled "Elements of commonality and issues for further consideration".

We regard the co-Chairs' paper as an important outcome this year, as it identifies in one consolidated document the key elements of commonality on all five clusters of issues mandated under General Assembly resolution 62/557. The co-Chairs' paper also lists some other issues that merit further reflection and discussion. We are happy that it builds on the work done by the intergovernmental negotiations over the past two years and, together with the framework document and the elements of convergence paper, will form a good reference point from which to start discussion at the next session of the intergovernmental negotiations.

We note that the paper omitted any reference to an important issue of interest to Singapore, the need to pay due attention to the representation of small island developing States on a reformed Security Council. However, we acknowledge that the paper reflects a fine balance of the interests of Member States and the positions they hold. Accordingly, we have joined the consensus on the adoption of decision 71/553. We will, however, continue to flag this important issue as well as other issues of interest to small States, notably the working methods of the Security Council, when the intergovernmental negotiations resumes work next year.

While the paper represents another milestone in the work of the process of intergovernmental negotiations, we should not rest on our laurels. The challenge now is to build on the co-Chairs' paper and sustain the momentum for progress. In our view, the imperative for Security Council reform remains more real and urgent than ever before. We must accelerate the pace of our work in order to achieve speedy and meaningful reforms.

My delegation remains committed to working with all other delegations to advance the progress made, realize meaningful and early reforms, and make the Security Council more open, accountable, effective and inclusive.

Mr. Jinga (Romania): I wish to say a few words on behalf of both co-Chairs. I want to convey our deep gratitude to you, Mr. President, and to all those who have expressed their support for the work done by the two co-Chairs.

Sir, in your statement of 6 February at the opening of the intergovernmental negotiations, you encouraged Member States to find ways to move beyond the impasse of long-standing differences on the nature of Security Council reform. You also mentioned the need for a renewed spirit of openness, compromise and commitment to finding common ground so as to overcome the challenges relating to the sensitive and complex issues involved in this reform.

The intergovernmental negotiations are a highly complex political process, which means that reform of the Security Council requires a political solution. That solution certainly exists. The zero-sum game is not an option, and I believe that where there is a will, there is a way. As co-Chairs, we endeavoured both to be creative and to maintain momentum while respecting the aspirations of all Member States. Based on the principle that nothing is agreed on until everything is agreed on, and using interactive discussions, we tried to identify interlinkages among the five clusters, with the goal of determining elements of commonality and issues for further consideration. We always acted as honest brokers, in good faith and with full impartiality, aware of the essential role that Member States have in this process.

Our common objective is to make the best of the Security Council's capacity to meet new demands as the United Nations faces a growing array of challenges, including terrorism, humanitarian crises, human rights violations, armed conflicts and important health and environmental concerns. Those challenges can only be addressed in a coordinated manner, because whatever happens now in one corner of the world has echoes tens of thousands of miles away. The co-Chairs therefore pursued a way forward that will continue to build on increasing mutual trust among Member States in order to further explore what we have in common and to see how we can reduce the gap between different positions, keeping in mind that we cannot start from scratch every time.

Because Security Council reform may have geopolitical consequences, the process of intergovernmental negotiations cannot simply be a collection of data. Its purpose is not to identify majorities and minorities of countries but to find a solution acceptable to all. Its role is to create bridges and trust, not to separate Member States into different camps. At the same time, aspirations have to match reality. As co-Chairs, we tried to take all these aspects into consideration.

The United Nations is the only universal international organization we have. Despite its diversity of voices, it has not remained static since 1945. Our Organization has been in a continuing process of evolution, including through the expansion of the Security Council in 1965 and the establishment of a range of United Nations specialized agencies, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Criminal Court, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council and UN-Women. These are only a few examples of how institutions positively evolve if conditions are met.

We have all agreed to maintain the momentum for reform of the Security Council. The Chinese proverb says that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. We are all aware that a long road lies ahead of us. The road may sometimes seem too narrow and we may think that it is not wide enough for everyone to walk it. But if we want to reach the same destination, we need mutual trust and a general desire to compromise. Because the intergovernmental negotiations are a Member State-driven process, the elements of commonality and the issues for further consideration that the co-Chairs have identified are entirely based on the contributions of Member States. It is not a consensus document because it includes different opinions on how to reform the Security Council, but, as the statements we have heard today confirm, neither is it controversial, because it reflects, as accurately as possible, how Member States see Security Council reform.

At the end of the day, this session of intergovernmental negotiations was more than an intellectual exercise in which we have had interactive debates and exchanges of arguments. As co-Chairs, we did our best to raise the expectations of Member States. We hope that our work will be added to the achievements of previous sessions and thereby contribute to the continuation of this process during the seventy-second session. As co-Chairs, we are grateful for the support and encouragement we have received during the past nine months from so many of our colleagues present here, and we are deeply honoured by the trust you, Mr. President, have placed in us. It was a privilege to be at the service of all the States Members of the United Nations during this seventy-first session.

The President: Before concluding our deliberations, I shall make a few brief remarks on the question of equitable representation and the increase in membership of the Security Council.

I would like to add my sincere thanks to the co-Chairs, Ambassador Ion Jinga, Permanent Representative of Romania, and Ambassador Mohamed Khaled Khiari, Permanent Representative of Tunisia, for diligently guiding the intergovernmental negotiations throughout the seventy-first session. On behalf of the General Assembly, I say to both that theirs was a job well done.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all Member States and delegations for the understanding and cooperation that they extended to the co-Chairs. It is the willingness of Member States to engage and interact with broad understanding and unflagging commitment that has made the intergovernmental negotiations such a critical element of the General Assembly's work, and it will be their willingness to explore convergences and commonalities that will take us to the reforms we seek.

While this session of intergovernmental negotiations has concluded with much work remaining to be done in terms of a reform model acceptable to all Member States, I believe that the commonalities and issues for further consideration outlined under each of the five clusters under discussion will serve to assist progress in the future work of the negotiations. I trust that the intergovernmental negotiations will proceed from here to the seventy-second session with the same constructive energy, and in a fresh spirit of flexibility, so as to enable further progress to be made on the central responsibility of the General Assembly.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 122?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 126 (*continued*)

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

(q) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum

Draft resolution (A/71/L.77)

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to introduce draft resolution A/71/L.77.

Mrs. Chigiyal (Micronesia): I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/71/L.77, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum", on behalf of the members of the Forum.

The draft is an update of resolution 69/318 and serves two purposes. First, it takes stock of various developments over the past two years, and secondly, it encourages further cooperation between the two organizations. Let me briefly point out a few key elements in this year's draft resolution.

Notably, we have welcomed the continued mutually beneficial dialogue between the Pacific Islands Forum leaders and the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the possibility of a visit by the new Secretary-General to our region now that he has assumed office. We have also tried to consider practical solutions to assist us in our sustainable development efforts. For example, the partnerships between the United Nations system and Pacific Islands Forum members have yielded positive results through engagement with the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Tonga.

We have referenced the recently operationalized Office of the Pacific Ocean Commissioner, which would support our region's efforts in implementing the oceans agenda, including Sustainable Development Goal 14. We have sought to consider how the United Nations system can better deliver on the ground in the Forum region and Forum members' willingness to engage in enhanced partnership. Lastly, we have sought to recognize the importance of the recent declarations of World Tsunami Awareness Day, the International Day of the Tropics and World Tuna Day, respectively.

We would like to thank all the delegations that participated constructively in the negotiations of the

draft resolution, and to express our gratitude for the valuable support from the more than 80 delegations that have joined us as sponsors of the draft resolution. We would welcome and appreciate the General Assembly's adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

The President: The General Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/71/L.77, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Pacific Islands Forum". The draft resolution is closed for e-sponsorship.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Nakano (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that since the submission of the draft resolution, in addition to those delegations listed in document A/71/L.77, the following countries have become sponsors of the draft resolution: Argentina, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Lebanon, the Maldives, Morocco, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Surinam, Thailand, Turkey and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/71/L.77?

Draft resolution A/71/L.77 was adopted (resolution 71/316).

The President: Before giving the floor for explanations of position, I would like to remind delegations that explanations of vote or position are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Dolbow (United States of America): The United States is pleased to join the consensus on resolution 71/316. We would like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 should be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law and that nothing in these outcomes, including anything referred to as agreed, creates or affect States' rights or obligations under international law.

The United States further notes that on 1 June, the President announced that the United States will withdraw from or renegotiate United States participation in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change or another international climate deal.

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (q) of agenda item 126?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: In order for the Assembly to take action on the draft resolution, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of the sub-item.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of sub-item (r) of agenda item 126?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 126 (*continued*)

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

(r) Cooperation between the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Draft resolution (A/71/L.76)

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Philippines to introduce draft resolution A/71/L.76.

Mr. Locsin (Philippines): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and my own country, the Philippines, to introduce draft resolution A/71/L.76, entitled "Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations". The draft resolution is sponsored by the States members of ASEAN, together with a number of friends and partners from across the regions of the Asia-Pacific, Africa, the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe, as co-sponsors.

Fifty years ago, when ASEAN was established by the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967, its founding fathers envisioned an organization with the primary objective of promoting regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law and adherence to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Today, ASEAN is forging ahead to consolidate a vibrant, peaceful and outward-looking regional organization within a global community of nations. ASEAN represents an area that is home to more than 630 million people — approximately 9 per cent of the world population. Their needs, aspirations and well-being are at the centre of our organization's vision for a politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, people-oriented and people-centred community, underpinned by three pillars — the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community.

The draft resolution presented to the General Assembly today is the first commemorative one of its kind proposed by a regional organization. It seeks to raise awareness of ASEAN as a regional organization that promotes multilateralism and regional peace, stability and prosperity, and highlights complementarities between the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations 2025: Forging ahead together and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Over the years, ASEAN's relations with the United Nations have steadily progressed. We value the engagement between the two organizations' secretariats and the regular dialogues between the United Nations and ASEAN's leaders, ministers and senior officials through the ASEAN-United Nations Summit and other meetings, including those that take place annually on the margins of the high-level debates following the opening of the session of the General Assembly. They provide opportunities to pursue our complementary agendas for people, the planet and prosperity.

We are proud of our robust and constructive relations with ASEAN's dialogue partners: Australia, Canada, China, Japan, India, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Korea, the United States and the European Union, as well as with our sectoral dialogue partners and development partners. ASEAN also continues to play a central role in platforms that have contributed to regional peace and stability, such as the ASEAN Plus Three, the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus. We are equally proud of ASEAN's engagement with other regional groups such as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Pacific Alliance, the Southern Common Market and other regional organizations, in the pursuit of common aspirations for our peoples.

We continue to see Member States' growing interest in enhancing cooperation with ASEAN through their designation of more than 80 ambassadors to ASEAN in Jakarta. We look forward to developing friendly relations and mutually beneficial ties with other States Members of the United Nations, in accordance with the ASEAN Charter. All of this highlights ASEAN's firm belief that regional organizations and the United Nations have unique and complementary capacities for addressing key issues for the common good. The draft resolution therefore not only commemorates 50 years of ASEAN but also celebrates 50 years of robust partnerships, pioneering initiatives and the power of possibility through constructive engagement with all of the States Members of the United Nations to achieve our collective goals of inclusive growth and sustained peace.

On behalf of the ASEAN member States, I wish to take this opportunity to convey our profound appreciation to all the sponsors of the draft resolution, as well as our dialogue partners and all Member States, for their continued support and constructive engagement with ASEAN.

I now humbly request that all Member States adopt draft resolution A/71/L.76 by consensus.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/71/L.76, entitled "Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations".

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Nakano (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that since the submission of the draft resolution, and in addition to those delegations listed in document A/71/L.76, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Albania, Argentina, Belarus, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic

Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkey, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Uruguay.

Draft resolution A/71/L.76 was adopted (resolution 71/317).

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded its consideration of sub-item (r) of agenda item 126.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

United Nations A/71/PV.93

General Assembly

Seventy-first session

Official Records

93rd plenary meeting
Friday, 28 July 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Thomson ..... (Fiji)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session

The President: Before we proceed to the items on our agenda, it is my sad duty to pay tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, who passed away on 8 June. On behalf of the General Assembly, I request the representative of Nicaragua to convey our condolences to the Government and the people of Nicaragua and to the bereaved family of His Excellency Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann. As we pay tribute to him, I would like to make a brief statement.

Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann was a renowned diplomat, politician, community leader and priest who dedicated his life to social justice, upholding international law and helping the poor and marginalized people of our world. He was a steadfast promoter of peace and non-violence. As Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, he played a key role in civil peace processes within Central America, and was a tireless voice for unity and reconciliation.

In Nicaragua, Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann recognized the power of diplomacy and was an ardent defender of multilateralism. As President of the General Assembly during a period of immense challenges, including the global financial crisis, he promoted this Hall as a central forum for global debate and said:

> "The General Assembly enables the dialogue that is essential to identifying and, more importantly, to agreeing on solutions to our most pressing problems" (*A/63/PV.16, p.52*).

He founded non-governmental organizations with a view to empowering the poor in Nicaragua. He mobilized assistance to help victims of natural disasters and served on civil-society bodies dedicated to protecting the environment. Seven years prior to the General Assembly's adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann said, in this great Hall:

> "We must be brave enough to challenge the vast inequities that exist in the world; we must take steps to defuse the time bombs that are ticking at the heart of virtually all of our societies; and, as unappealing as it may sound, that will require sacrifices from all of us. We must reorder our priorities if we are to fulfil the promises of security and well-being that billions of people have trusted in us to keep." (*ibid., p.53*)

With those words, Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann was calling on all people to take up that mantle and become leaders and advocates for a more just world.

Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann's message of global unity remains as relevant today as it was during his time on the international stage. His unswerving faith in the human spirit, support for human rights and belief in equality between men and women in nations large and small shaped his life. It is fitting that, on this sombre occasion, we remember Mr. D'Escoto Brockmann's profound words delivered to the General Assembly. He said:

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> "[W]e are all brothers and sisters and, if we hope to climb out of the terrible mess we have created, we must treat each other with respect and love.
>
> "Call it compassion. Call it brotherhood and sisterhood. Call it stewardship. Call it solidarity. The idea is the same in all parts of the world. We owe it to one another. We owe it to Mother Earth, who is struggling to survive our abuses. We owe it to succeeding generations. Let us join forces to ensure that we rise to those challenges together, setting aside our petty differences. We can and we must make a difference." (*ibid., p.53*)

On behalf of the General Assembly, I again extend sincere condolences to the family of Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann and to the Government and people of Nicaragua.

I now request the General Assembly to rise to observe a minute of silence in memory of the late Father.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The President: In accordance with rule 70 of the rules of procedure, I now give the floor to Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, to make a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Ms. Viotti (*spoke in Spanish*): I join the members of the General Assembly in paying tribute to Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann. Father D'Escoto played a very important role in Nicaragua's history and was a prominent figure in Latin America. As a politician, diplomat and Catholic priest, he dedicated his life to serving his fellow citizens. His invaluable contribution, as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, to the Contadora and Esquipulas peace processes in the effort to achieve peace in Central America is a very significant legacy.

The United Nations appreciates the important role that Father Miguel d'Escoto played as President of the General Assembly from September 2008 to September 2009, when he highlighted key issues such as financing for development. Father D'Escoto will also be remembered for his commitment to promoting disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and for his efforts to combat terrorism and hunger throughout the world. He fought steadfastly for reform of the United Nations and helped to emphasize the critical and central role of the General Assembly.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to extend our condolences to the family of Father D'Escoto and to the Government and people of Nicaragua.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Chad, who will speak on behalf of the Group of African States.

Mr. Moustapha (Chad) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the Group of African States, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the Government and people of Nicaragua and to the family of the late Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, who died on 8 June.

Today we pay tribute to a man of God who made his mark on the history of his country and region. Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann viewed his priesthood as a journey for the cause of peace, justice and the dignity of his people. The commitment he made to his people made him an ardent supporter of liberation theology, which led him down the path of armed struggle as a member of the Sandinistas. After completing the work of the State, he returned to the ministry in 2014 to continue preaching the word of God, in the strong conviction that he was making the right choice.

He devoted his life to helping the poor, visiting many of the world's regions to spark hope for a better future and give a voice to those who go unheard. As a statesman who served his country for more than 10 years as Minister for Foreign Affairs, he carried the diplomacy of the Republic of Nicaragua as far as it could go, defending it boldly and with great success on the international stage. He was serious about his work, deeply committed to the principles of active non-violence and a staunch activist for peace, justice and respect for international law.

His many awards and distinctions attest to a life well lived and deserving of recognition. He was the recipient of the Lenin Peace Prize for the year 1985-1986; the Thomas Merton Prize in 1987; the Order of Cardinal Miguel Obando Bravo in 2007 for his work to achieve peace; the Julio Cortázar Prize for Peace and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean in 1985; and the Alfonso Comín Peace Prize in Barcelona in 1984.

As an advocate for multilateralism, he fought to reform an international organization that served the peoples of the world. He never abandoned that dream, compiling his thoughts in a widely circulated

pamphlet entitled "Reinventing the United Nations: A proposal — how to make the United Nations a functional organization capable of dealing effectively with the major challenges of the twenty-first century confronting Mother Earth and humankind". His proposal is still valid today.

He set an example for promoting a greater role for the General Assembly in delivering global justice. He was courageous and did not hesitate to criticize the injustices suffered by the Palestinian people from the very first statement he made in his capacity as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session (see A/63/PV.1). He made his mark. May his soul rest in peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Myanmar, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

Mr. Suan (Myanmar): I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States on this very special but sombre occasion.

On behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group and myself, I wish to express our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the Government and the people of Nicaragua and to the bereaved family of His Excellency Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session.

Father Miguel d'Escoto presided over the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, from September 2008 to September 2009. During his presidency, Father Miguel d'Escoto steered United Nations deliberations towards the crucial issues of hunger, poverty alleviation, climate change and the protection of biodiversity. He was also a strong advocate of human rights, particularly the rights of women and children, and cultural diversity. International peace and security, disarmament and terrorism were high on his agenda. His contribution to reform of the United Nations and his full support to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly have been widely recognized.

Father Miguel d'Escoto was a long-time prominent leader of his country, and he served as Foreign Minister of Nicaragua from 1979 to 1990. He believed in dialogue and negotiation, and will be remembered for his tireless efforts to build relations with other countries in the region.

Father Miguel was ordained a priest in 1961. In the 1970s, he embraced socialism and liberation theology. He was an unyielding person who fought alongside the people. He was a man of faith, God and humankind. Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann will be fondly remembered for his devotion and dedication and his contribution to his country and the people of the world. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Jamaica, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. Rattray (Jamaica): I have the sad duty and yet distinct honour to pay tribute this morning, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, to the memory of one of our own, His Excellency Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, from 2008 to 2009, and former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Nicaragua from 1979 to 1990. Father Miguel — or Padre Miguel, as he was affectionately known — was also a veteran statesman, politician, community leader, priest, social activist and revolutionary.

Inspired by the lives and work of personalities, such as Simón Bolívar, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day and Leo Tolstoy, Father d'Escoto was a fierce advocate of multilateralism and respect for obligations arising from international law, as well as for the principles of active non-violence, solidarity and social justice. Throughout his life, he exceeded the norm and was a tireless fighter, through both his priestly role and diplomatic practice, advocating on issues critical for humankind such as peace, security, development and the fight against hunger and poverty.

During his stewardship of the Assembly, he offered us wise words, saying that humanity must replace selfishness and individualism with a spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood if we are all to survive. That was consistent with the core of his community-organizing passion, which was to empower the most vulnerable in our societies and to address the world's most pressing challenges, such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, disease, climate change and war.

While at the helm of the General Assembly, and faced with the mammoth task of addressing the Organization's response to the global financial crisis of 2008, he reminded us of the critical role of the United Nations. He was convinced of the ability of our Organization to develop a meaningful response,

through its system of regional commissions, specialized agencies, funds and programmes and to formulate practical solutions to problems of such global scope and dimension. As Father d'Escoto often implored, we must never forget that the solutions to the world's sociopolitical and economic challenges require the full participation and solidarity of all Member States.

As we use this occasion to pay homage to the life and work of Father d'Escoto, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States expresses its solidarity and sincere condolences to Father d'Escoto's family and to the Government and people of Nicaragua during this difficult time of national grief.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Belgium, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. Buffin (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): On this solemn occasion, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States.

It is with deep sadness that we learned about the passing of His Excellency Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, former President of the General Assembly. We remember his rich and remarkable career. He was ordained a priest of the Maryknoll Missionaries in the early 1960s and devoted much of his life to helping the poor and disadvantaged.

As President of the General Assembly of the United Nations during its sixty-third session, he was especially committed to fulfilling the United Nations development agenda. In September 2008, at the opening of the session, he organized, together with the Secretary-General, a high-level meeting on the Millennium Development Goals with the objective of accelerating progress in order to improve the conditions of the world's poorest.

Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann served as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua for more than 10 years, from 1979 to 1990. More recently, he continued to serve his country as an adviser on foreign affairs to its President.

We express our sincere condolences to the Government of Nicaragua and the family and friends of Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann. We will keep them in our thoughts and prayers during these difficult times.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation): It is with sadness that we learned of the passing of His Excellency Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, President of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session. On behalf of the members of the Group of Eastern European States, let me convey our heartfelt condolences and sincere regrets to his family, relatives and friends, as well as to the people and Government of Nicaragua.

Mr. Brockmann was a friend and colleague of many in this Hall. He was a faithful servant of his country in his capacity, among others, as Minister for Foreign Affairs of his country for 12 years.

Mr. Brockmann was always a strong advocate for peace and justice and had deep respect for the principles of multilateralism. He described his presidency of the General Assembly as one of the most turbulent in years, as it took place in the shadow of a massive global financial contraction and economic recession. His priorities were addressing the problems of rising energy and food prices around the world, as well as hunger, poverty and climate change. His other priorities included terrorism, disarmament, cultural diversity, the rights of women and children and the protection of biodiversity.

Mr. Brockmann was not afraid to express his real and sometimes courageous views. He demonstrated an appetite for change and reform. We may recall also his dedication to the revitalization and reform of the United Nations. He called for solidarity and sincerely believed that the United Nations had the potential to be indispensable to humankind's efforts to survive crises. He spared no effort to achieve progress in that area. He wanted the United Nations to become more worthy of trust and credibility.

I would like to voice again our respect and admiration for a man who in life served both as a priest and as a diplomat. His high professionalism and dedication will be remembered forever. May he rest in peace.

The President: I now call on the representative of Nicaragua.

Mrs. Rubiales de Chamorro (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, please accept our profound gratitude for holding this special tribute today for the outstanding revolutionary priest Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann — whom we rightly call the chancellor of the dignity of Nicaragua and as such, the

defender of the dignity of the peoples of the Americas and the world — as well as the former President of the General Assembly.

On 8 June, the Government of Reconciliation and National Unity and the Presidency of the Republic of Nicaragua announced with profound consternation and sorrow Father Miguel's unexpected departure from this world. Once our companion in our efforts to fulfil the aspirations and dreams of our people, he has passed on to that realm where, for us Christians, he is in the presence of Christ Jesus, the Redeemer of the World.

Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, who was a Sandinista, activist, intellectual, communicator and theologian, and a unique figure for our country and our revolution, lived for the meek, and with the poor of the world walked the paths seeking the restoration of dignity and people's rights, and with an immovable faith in social justice. It is that faith that mobilizes us Christians and revolutionaries alike to continue to change this world. A better world, one of love, is possible, urgent and necessary. That was the motto of Miguel, Father, missionary, exceptional chancellor, companion, patriot and Nicaraguan, by the Grace of God, who fully took on, until his last moments, the commitment to fighting tirelessly, without cowardice or duplicity, for the world and Nicaragua, which we love and must make better, all of us together.

Like the rain, he was a bringer of life in Chile, where he practiced the Gospel alongside the humblest and poorest families. He did the same in Nicaragua, in times of sorrow and tragedy. When an earthquake shook our country in 1972, Miguel was there immediately, spreading hope and thereby promoting life. He spread the Christian ideal and principle of justice. He did so in the United States as a member of the Maryknoll Order. He travelled to impoverished regions on other continents, especially Africa. There, Miguel encountered the ideas of leaders of developing countries that were fighting for independence and against colonialism, including Julius Nyerere, that great African leader with Christian roots.

He encountered the ideas of leaders from the various continents, including developed countries, and priests, religious, laymen and intellectuals encountered his ideas. There was a meeting of the minds between Miguel and the community of men and women who are still fighting for peace on our planet. He gave all of the cultural wealth that he had been accumulating to the struggle, linking Nicaragua even more closely with the peoples of the world, and improving its struggle for peace in the face of the aggression suffered by our people.

With the Government's restoration in 2007, Nicaragua promoted the candidacy of Miguel for President of the General Assembly, receiving the immediate support of developing countries, which knew him and his ideas, principles and practice well. Latin America and the Caribbean, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Group of 77 and China immediately gave him their full support.

At the United Nations, today it is clearer than ever that profound reform and re-establishment are needed so that, under new conditions, all countries will have equal rights and are equal, allowing us to truly achieve the peace that our peoples desire so much. Miguel raised that flag with great force and conviction. His testimony, ideas and proposals have been written down and supported in practice. Until his dying day, Miguel was convinced that this is a battle that we must continue to wage.

A true believer and defender of international law and the equality of States, multilateralism and of the Group of 193, as Father Miguel called it, he was an unyielding defender of the sovereignty of our peoples, especially of small countries against the powerful, and of justice and respect for international law, for United Nations bodies and, in particular, for the International Court of Justice. Miguel firmly believed in the fundamental role of the Court in the attainment of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes. It was this idea that allowed Nicaragua to obtain its greatest victory in the international area during those hard and difficult moments of its history.

Miguel will continue to journey with us. Neither his ideas nor his light will be extinguished by his passing. He will support us in the daily battle that we will continue to fight, for justice, freedom, sovereignty, peace and for our peoples. That is why we have embodied in our Constitution those Christian and socialist principles for which he fought, and the principle of solidarity, which have enabled us to build peace and stability in our country. His contribution as a revolutionary priest fulfilled the Christian mandate in the quest for egalitarian solidarity, and was consistent with his efforts to combat human egoism and social injustice, even in his later years, during which, as President of the

General Assembly, he defended the global principles of sovereignty and the self-determination of peoples.

Palestine always had a special place in the heart of Father Miguel. He felt the pain and suffering of the Palestinian people felt as if it were his own. Peace in the Middle East was always in his thoughts and prayers, and he longed to see Jews and Arabs living in peace and harmony.

That was the character and attitude of Miguel, and this is the legacy that he leaves us — to face all challenges with faith. From faith comes the strength, determination, ability and capacity to carry on. Despite the challenges and difficulties, we carry on with hope and trust, as we win one victory after another, step by step. His departure is not a goodbye. Rather, he will be with us forever. We know that he walks with us in today's battles as well as those of tomorrow. He will always be our guide in building a prosperous Nicaragua where there is equity, social justice, an alliance, dialogue and consensus. He will always remain with the peoples of the world in their struggle for peace.

The President: We have thus concluded our tribute to the late President of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

Agenda item 115 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(h) Appointment of a member of the Joint Inspection Unit

Note by the Secretary-General (A/71/991)

Note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Myanmar (A/71/992)

The President: As indicated in document A/71/991, Inspector Rajab Sukayri, of Jordan, was appointed by the General Assembly for a five-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2015 and expiring on 31 December 2019. On 30 June 2017, Mr. Sukayri submitted his resignation to the Chair of the Joint Inspection Unit, on the basis of an agreement between Japan and Jordan that Mr. Sukayri would step down from his position as an inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit on 31 December 2017 and that Japan would nominate a candidate for the remainder of his term, as communicated by the Chair of the Group of Asia-Pacific States in a note verbale contained in document A/71/992.

In accordance with article 4, paragraph 5, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, the Chair of the Unit notified the Secretary-General of the vacancy. As a result of the resignation, the General Assembly is required to appoint a member to fill the vacancy in the Joint Inspection Unit.

As indicated in document A/71/991, in accordance with article 3, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, the President of the General Assembly shall consult with Member States to draw up a list of countries, in this case, one country, which would be requested to propose a candidate for appointment to the Joint Inspection Unit. After holding the necessary consultations, I should like to communicate to the Assembly the information received from the Chair of the Group of Asia-Pacific States that the Group has endorsed Japan to propose a candidate for the vacancy from among the Asia-Pacific States. In accordance with article 3, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, Japan will be requested to submit the name of a candidate and the curriculum vitae highlighting the candidate's relevant qualifications for the task.

I would like to remind members that, in accordance with resolution 59/267 of 23 December 2004, the candidates should have experience in at least one of the following fields: oversight, audit, inspection, investigation, evaluation, finance, project evaluation, programme evaluation, human resources management, management, public administration, monitoring and/or programme performance, as well as knowledge of the United Nations system and its role in international relations.

After holding the appropriate consultations described in article 3, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, including consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and with the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, I will submit the name of the candidate to the Assembly for appointment.

I would further like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to article 4, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, which provides that

> "an Inspector appointed to replace one whose term of office has not expired shall hold office for the remainder of that term, provided it is not less than three years. Otherwise, the duration of the appointment shall be for a full term".

In the present case, the remaining term of office of Mr. Sukayri is less than three years. The person who will be appointed to replace Mr. Sukayri would therefore normally serve a full term of five years. However, the Chair of the Group of Asia-Pacific States has indicated in his note verbale contained in document A/71/992 that the person who will be replacing Mr. Sukayri should be nominated only for the remainder of Mr. Sukayri's term of office, that is, from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019. In this regard, notwithstanding article 4, paragraph 2, of the statute, the Assembly may wish to consider deciding that the term of office of the person who will be replacing Mr. Sukayri should be from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to decide that the term of office of the person who will be replacing Mr. Sukayri should be from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019?

It was so decided.

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of sub-item (h) of agenda item 115.

Agenda item 118 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/71/858)

The President: This week, the world has once again witnessed horrific terrorist attacks, this time targeting internally displaced persons in Nigeria, a crowded marketplace in Pakistan and civil servants commuting to work in Afghanistan. Those cowardly attacks have killed hundreds of innocent people and devastated the lives of thousands. They serve as tragic reminders to us of the scale of the challenge we face in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Let us never surrender to the idea that these are just statistics or that there is any kind of justification for this aberration in human behaviour. Every decent tenet of human philosophy and religion, of human rights thought and principle, of law, science and culture, abhors terrorism and violent extremism.

It was in that conformity of spirit, and in an understanding of the urgency of the matter, that last month the General Assembly established the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism through its adoption of resolution 71/291. Presented by Secretary-General Guterres, this iniative marked an important step in strengthening the capability of the United Nations to assist Member States in countering terrorism, preventing violent extremism and implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Since then, Ambassador Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov has been appointed to head the new Office of Counter-Terrorism. I congratulate him on his appointment and am confident that he will enjoy the full support and cooperation of all of us in his vital role.

Today's meeting is an important next step in our efforts to pursue the successful implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and enhance the role of the United Nations in combating terrorism and preventing violent extremism. It is by sharing knowledge and increasing international cooperation that we can enable global efforts to take decisive and effective action. It is by strengthening existing partnerships and forging new connections among all stakeholders that we will resist the spread of the hate and intolerance that feeds the beast of violent extremism. And it is by faithfully implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and by bringing the full weight of the United Nations system to bear, that we will rid the world of terrorism. Let us do all this in fidelity to the memory of the countless innocent victims of terrorism and violent extremism. May they rest in peace and may we bring this historic scourge to a swift end.

Mr. Grant (Canada): I have the honour to speak today on behalf of Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

On 15 June, our three countries welcomed the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 71/291, which created the Office of Counter-Terrorism and a new Under-Secretary-General position. We are pleased to see quick action by the Secretary-General to begin implementing this important resolution, and look forward to working with Under-Secretary-General Voronkov.

We see those enhancements to the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture as contributing to the Secretary-General's overall goal of better focusing the United Nations effort on prevention. The new Office must ensure a balanced implementation of all

four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including the prevention of violent extremism. We need to work together more than ever to prevent and respond to terrorism and violent extremism, and to ensure that our collaboration includes a broad range of partners, including from civil society, youth, women and the private sector.

Since the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted in 2006 as resolution 60/288, the threat posed by terrorism has evolved, and our response must also adapt to reflect the changing picture. We see a need to rebalance our collective work on international counter-terrorism, including that of the United Nations, so as to ensure enhanced efforts to prevent violent extremism and promote human rights in the fight against terrorism. The adoption of resolution 71/291 is an important step forward, but it does not mean that all of the hard work is behind us.

As Member States and donors to the United Nations counter-terrorism efforts, we would like to see increased coherence and streamlining in the assessment and capacity-building initiatives of the Organization's various agencies so as to reduce duplication and ensure that each agency focuses on its areas of relative strength. That should include a means for regular and effective coordination between the new Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate.

Australia, Canada and New Zealand will continue to advocate for those improvements and look forward to engaging constructively in the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy next summer.

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Ms. Mezdrea (European Union): We would like to reiterate our thanks to you, Sir, for facilitating the adoption of resolution 71/291 on 15 June. We would also like to congratulate Ambassador Vladimir Voronkov on his recent appointment as Under-Secretary-General for the Office of Counter-Terrorism. We would like to take this opportunity to assure him of our full support in his new endeavour.

The European Union (EU) and its member States contributed to that process in a very constructive and substantive manner, and we are very pleased that, with the adoption of the resolution, we have achieved that important institutional step. The establishment of the new Office is indeed a necessary first step in improving the role of the United Nations and its impact in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

We welcome the fact that the new Under-Secretary-General and his Office of Counter-Terrorism are set to address preventing violent extremism as a core part of their responsibility for implementing the entire Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced manner, as stipulated in the Secretary-General's report (A/71/858). That also resonates with the Secretary-General's overall prevention agenda, which the EU and its States members fully endorse.

We strongly supported the Secretary-General's proposal for establishing the new Office, headed by an Under-Secretary-General who will provide strategic leadership, participate in high-level decision-making at the United Nations and ensure that cross-cutting drivers of terrorism and violent extremism are taken into account in the Organization's work. Setting the agenda on counter-terrorism and a coherent approach to preventing violent extremism alongside other United Nations policies, in particular those involving human rights and development, will be key to its success in the field. A comprehensive approach also requires the involvement of young people, women, local communities and victims of terrorism in implementing those policies. We are confident that Under-Secretary-General Voronkov will deliver on those expectations.

There is no need to stress the importance of more effective and efficient coordination within the overall United Nations system and between the United Nations and other international organizations and forums. Within the mandates of existing entities, we must increase linkages, foster a spirit of systematic cooperation and evaluate and monitor the impact of the future work of the United Nations.

The EU and its States members want a strong, efficient United Nations that can drive the global effort to prevent violent extremism and its counter-terrorism agenda, while taking a balanced approach across the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. To achieve that, we are committed to closely cooperating with the newly established Office and Under-Secretary-General Voronkov.

Mr. Danon (Israel): We are meeting today to discuss the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It is deeply troubling that this topic is becoming increasingly relevant and urgent every year. Over the

past year, we have seen terrorism strike throughout the world. From the United Kingdom to France, from Egypt to Nigeria, terrorists seek to harm all those who value life.

Sadly, my country, Israel, is no stranger to terrorism. Only one week ago, yet another horrific terror attack took place. Three members of the Salomon family were stabbed to death in their home while their children hid in fear. That violent terror attack was not an isolated event. Terror is not committed in a vacuum. It is our goal to defeat terrorism. That is why we must truly understand what drives terrorists. We cannot allow ourselves to be misled by false narratives and attempts to deceive the international community.

Our adversaries are attempting to blame last week's attack on a supposed change in the status quo on the Temple Mount. Palestinian leaders have taken to the streets, the airwaves and social media, claiming that their religious sites are under attack. Nothing could be further from the truth. Israel has stated time and again its commitment to safeguarding the status quo on the Temple Mount, and Israel is committed to keeping it that way, that is, open, safe and secure for all worshippers and visitors.

To calm the tension, we even amended our security procedures in Jerusalem as an act of good will. But how did the Palestinian leadership respond? With more calls for violence. It always has another excuse for terror. It always seeks to excuse the inexcusable. Right now, the excuse is the Temple Mount. In the past, it was the reunification of Jerusalem. Before that, it was the very establishment of the State of Israel.

The truth is that the real cause of terrorism in Palestinian society is the same as it is throughout the world. It is the delegitimization of the other. It is the rejection of people of other faiths and nationalities and the glorification of senseless violence against innocent victims as legitimate forms of expression. When children in Gaza are taught in school to hate Jews and young people in Paris are taught in mosques to despise free societies, the journey to radicalization is very short. Terrorism today is an industry. It is global, it is well-funded and it is expanding every single day. We must take all necessary measures to combat that dangerous industry with one voice. That is why we welcome the Secretary-General's establishment of the new Office of Counter-Terrorism as a necessary means to that end.

We congratulate Ambassador Voronkov on his recent appointment to lead the Office, and we hope that that will provide an important step towards a common platform for collaborating on such a crucial issue. We hope that it will help turn the United Nations into a central actor in overcoming terror. We also want to thank the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, for his important work over the past four years. We appreciate the cooperation that we have enjoyed with him and his office.

The fight against terror will be a long one. In fact, we are only at the beginning. Terrorists exploit the same science and technology advances that we use daily to counter terrorism. On the Internet, it is too easy for like-minded terrorists to connect online. They join extremist chat rooms. They read terrorist propaganda tailored just for them and find accounts that incite them to kill through a simple Google search. To become a dangerous terrorist today, all you really need is access to a smart phone and a WiFi connection.

While we must focus on combating terror as it occurs, we must also understand the real motivation behind such groups, which is relevant to us all. Too often, we blame terrorism on poverty or unemployment, but that is a simplistic claim. The fact is that professionals of all types from developed nations regularly join terror groups as well. Graduate students from some of the best universities in the Western world have travelled to the Middle East to join the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham. Socioeconomic class is not the cause. It is the widespread glorification of terror that fuels the global terror threat.

Israel has learned that the hard way. Not only are we dealing with dangerous extremism, but we face an official industry of incitement sponsored by the Palestinian leaders themselves. Mr. Abbas encourages relentless calls for terror against Israel. The Palestinian Authority spends $300 million a year on payments to terrorists.

We also have Hamas and Hizbullah on our doorstep — two deadly Iranian proxies. Hizbullah continues to rearm in southern Lebanon, as it routinely violates Security Council resolutions. Hamas has continued to exploit the residents of Gaza as it digs its terror tunnels and smuggles in rockets in the hope of attacking our citizens. We simply do not have the luxury of pretending that those groups are so-called

political organizations or resistance movements. No, we must call them what they really are — violent, extreme terrorists. The international community must do the same. They are terrorists — plain, simple and nothing else.

If we want to combat terror, we must address the real issues at stake. The four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy are a good start. But they ignore incitement. They exclude the culture of hate and they omit the glorification of terror by political leaders. Those are the central drivers of terrorism.

Terrorists today view borders as meaningless. They believe that international agreements exist only to be destroyed. Those of us who value freedom, human rights and human dignity cannot walk away from this fight. Now is the time to stand together in defence of our shared values. Now is the time to stand up to the forces of hate and violence. And now is the time to stand strong and fight back until we win.

Mr. Elshenawy (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to congratulate Mr. Vladimir Voronkov on his appointment as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. My delegation will spare no effort to support him as required.

Egypt was a staunch supporter of the idea of establishing a new office to coordinate United Nations efforts to combat terrorism. We believe that enhanced coordination among the United Nations agencies charged with combating terrorism is an important step towards improving the Organization's performance in that area. The United Nations must continue to supervise the fight against terrorism throughout the world. We supported that idea when we became a member of the Security Council, in the belief that the establishment of the Office of Counter-Terrorism was extremely important. My delegation would like to highlight certain issues that we consider vital.

We believe that it is necessary to respect the sovereignty of States and avoid any interference in the domestic affairs of States. The technical support provided by the Office should be carried out with the approval of the States Members of the United Nations and at their request. We must avoid linking terrorism to any religion. It is critical to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy while respecting its four pillars. It is crucial to strengthen coordination between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Counter-Terrorism Committee. That is especially true of the assessments that are conducted on behalf of Member States.

It is also very important to ensure that the Office of Counter-Terrorism adopts a country-focused approach. As we know, it will focus on specific issues, such as foreign terrorist fighters and the launch of counter-terrorism projects in some States. Nonetheless, the approach we envisage is one that focuses on countries that genuinely require assistance in the area of counter-terrorism so as to enable them to build their capacity to fight terrorism. That will facilitate the assessment of United Nations efforts and their impact on the ground.

It is also extremely important to strengthen cooperation between the Office of Counter-Terrorism and various regional organizations, including the League of Arab States, the African Union and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. We call on the Office to work with the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the Global Coalition against Da'esh. We call on the Office to reflect on non-conventional measures for increasing the number of donors so as to boost financing for relevant projects. A country-focused approach will contribute to that. Countries will ramp up their financing of counter-terrorism activities if we can assure them that their funds will be earmarked for counter-terrorism efforts. We must also provide the necessary financial resources to countries that need it.

In conclusion, we must focus on combating hate speech and speech that promotes extremism, and we must cooperate with institutions that are working to that end.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): The United States applauds recent efforts to streamline and focus the work of the United Nations aimed at helping countries fight terrorism. Those recent reforms will advance our common efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-terrorism Strategy. In particular, the United States strongly supports the creation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism. We hope that the Office will raise the profile of counter-terrorism efforts across the United Nations system while reducing duplication among the 38 United Nations bodies that do counter-terrorism work. It should enable those bodies to better target and implement their programmes, as well as help us all better identify and respond to emerging terrorism threats.

We welcome Under-Secretary-General Voronkov and pledge our full support for his efforts. Although it is more than a decade old, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has aged well. It is imperative, however, that the Office of Counter-Terrorism ensure a balanced implementation of the strategy across all four of its pillars. The General Assembly stressed the importance of that approach when it created the new Office, and we expect it to meet those expectations. For example, experience has shown that terrorists cannot be defeated through security measures alone. To counter that scourge, we must also prevent violent extremism and counter violent terrorist ideologies. The United Nations is uniquely positioned to do this. A balanced approach to implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should therefore integrate the prevention of violent extremism.

In particular, we believe that the Office should make incorporating the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism a high priority. It calls for a comprehensive approach to the prevention of violent extremism that will support security-based counter-terrorism measures, and will do so by promoting preventive measures to address the drivers and consequences of violent extremism directly. The United Nations should make the prevention of violent extremism a priority, and the Office of Counter-Terrorism can help make that happen.

Engaging civil society in countering terrorism is another area in which the United Nations, with strong coordination by the new Office, can be effective. Local youth and women's groups, academia and the media all have an essential role to play. These groups can build trust on the ground and should be at the centre of United Nations efforts to prevent radicalization and violence. We encourage the Office of Counter-Terrorism to integrate locally rooted civil-society organizations into United Nations counter-terrorism work wherever possible.

We also know that respecting human rights is an essential element of an effective fight against terrorism. Research shows that when counter-terrorism tactics are heavy-handed and abuse human rights, local support for terrorism increases. For this reason, both the General Assembly and the Security Council have repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of respecting human rights while fighting terrorism. We therefore encourage the Office of Counter-Terrorism to help promote the respect for human rights as a core element of a successful counter-terrorism strategy.

Finally, the United States congratulates Secretary-General Guterres on this critical first step in reforming the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture. We welcome the General Assembly's support for this reform and we hope a successful Office of Counter-Terrorism can serve as a model for architecture reform across the United Nations system.

Mrs. Bardaoui (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this important meeting, which enables us not only to assess the progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, but also to comment on actions being carried out and, especially, to assess the challenges that must be met.

Terrorism is a global scourge that poses a threat both to international peace and security and to the fundamental values of the United Nations. Hence our firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motives, which are always criminal and unjustified.

In 2006, the General Assembly took a historic step by adopting the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Strategy has evolved since then, particularly with the recent establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism in accordance with resolution 71/291, adopted on 15 June. It is clear that its creation reflects theimportance of strengthening coordination and coherence and developing effective cooperation within the framework of the United Nations to effectively combat terrorism.

We would also like to commend the Secretary-General's determination to make reform of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture a priority in the work of the General Assembly. My delegation would therefore like to take this opportunity to welcome the appointment of Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov to head the new United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, established by resolution 71/291 on 15 June. We believe that Mr. Voronkov's qualifications and leadership will fully meet expectations for an effective and coordinated response aimed at combating terrorism more effectively and better preventing every kind of violent extremism through an integrated and balanced approach to the four pillars of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

My country has experience of the scourge of terrorism. We firmly believe that it is crucial to ensure that terrorists know that the international community is not only mobilized but also determined to put an end to terrorism through greater international and regional cooperation. In this regard, Tunisia has acceded to various international legal instruments related to the terrorist threat and the elimination of financing sources for terrorist groups by ratifying 14 international conventions, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings. Tunisia has also ratified all regional conventions related to the fight against terrorism, such as the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism and the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism.

At the national level, in 2015 my country adopted a law on counter-terrorism and the prevention of money-laundering. The law criminalizes any act of support, incitement, training, recruitment or excuse for terrorism, as well as any attempt to finance terrorist activities or complicity in such attempts, based on the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1373 (2001) and 2178 (2014). In addition, in November 2016 we adopted a national strategy to combat extremism and terrorism, which includes the four critical pillars of prevention, protection, prosecution and response and has been a starting point for coherent and concerted national action in the fight against terrorism.

My delegation reiterates its readiness to work actively and in close collaboration with the new Office of Counter-Terrorism in order to increase efforts and initiatives aimed at capacity-building for Member States in addressing this scourge and further promoting international cooperation in this area.

Mr. Akbaruddin (India): Mr. President, as you said when we began consideration of this item, events unfolding around us every day have highlighted the fact that terrorism continues to be the world's most pervasive and serious challenge to international security. Even as we struggle with the traditional methods employed by terrorist organizations to ravage our collective psyche, we are faced with ever more complex threats that have emerged with the evolution of technology and the rise of an interconnected world.

Nuclear terrorism, radiological terrorism and cyberterrorism are only a few of the terms that we now use for such apocalyptic threats, which have emerged as ruthless non-State actors have evolved their ideology and adapted strategies to send out deep roots and explore new avenues in order to threaten the innocent populations of established States. Developing a comprehensive global response should therefore be our top priority. Terrorism is a global concern that demands global attention and requires global cooperation.

The international community has negotiated more than a dozen instruments on combating terrorism as benchmarks for States' commitment on the issue. The adoption and continuing review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy have demonstrated States' continuing commitment to dealing collectively with this threat. Yet despite our persistent efforts, the relevant law needs constant updating in a world of evolving threats. We would therefore like to emphasize the importance of concluding a comprehensive convention on international terrorism as soon as possible so as to reflect our unwavering common commitment to cooperating in combating terrorism.

The list of our collective limitations in dealing with the threats posed by terrorists is too long and self-evident to state in its entirety. Imagination and integration remain two of our major shortcomings, both as individual nations and collectively, in the United Nations. They have caused much distress at crucial times. As we address our limitations we should examine our approach honestly. There are important issues today before the international community that beg for answers. Where do potential terrorists go for training? How does their financing work? What are we doing to disrupt the ecosystems that promote terrorist start-ups? Do we know the answers and yet choose to look away? Of equal concern is that our reaction to terrorism in some geographic areas is different from others. In South Asia, we are seeing the international community's efforts to combat terrorism affected by the fatigue of a long-drawn-out war in Afghanistan.

While we deal with these threats, we must resist the temptation to buy individual peace for ourselves by striking deals that divert terrorists elsewhere. We need to intensify our efforts to persuade States to refrain from using terrorism as a card in the games that nations play. While non-State actors such as terrorists think globally, we representatives of States, alas, are thinking only nationally.

The dangers of discriminating among terrorists — good or bad, yours or mine — are well known. Terrorism is an international threat that should not be allowed to serve national strategy. We need to move beyond discouraging State sponsorship of terrorism and take the next step of building effective inter-State cooperative mechanisms to combat it. If cooperation is to thrive, intergovernmental organizations such as the United Nations must be strengthened to deal with the substance of these threats. In that context, we welcome the adoption of resolution 71/291 and the appointment of Under-Secretary-General Voronkov.

We hope that the creation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism will encourage an all-of-United-Nations approach while addressing the scourge of terrorism. It is possible that some aspects of this approach may appear overly ambitious, given the turf battles common at such forums. However, we must not set a low bar for ourselves. We have, admittedly, a long journey ahead of us. Our future, however, will be defined by the steps that we take on the journey. If we falter, we will have only ourselves to blame.

The President: I note that the representative of the Russian Federation at today's meeting is the new Permanent Representative, and since this is the first time that he will address the General Assembly, I would like to welcome him and assure him that his colleagues in the Assembly look forward to working with him in the best interests of the United Nations.

Mr. Nebenzia (Russian Federation): While this is not my first time in the General Assembly, it is my first in this capacity, and I believe it is symbolic that the first statement I am making after presenting my credentials to the Secretary-General earlier this morning is in the General Assembly, the most representative body of our Organization.

(*spoke in Russian*)

Today, the fight against terrorism is a priority issue on the international agenda. Unfortunately, its salience has not abated. Our country has never ceased to call for increased cooperation in order to combat this evil and increased effectiveness in doing it. The United Nations should undoubtedly play the central coordinating role in that work.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is an important overarching instrument for addressing many modern aspects of the terrorist threat. The implementation of the Strategy places primary importance on creating national counter-terrorist strategies, and Russia was among the first to do so. Since the Strategy was adopted in 2006, we have established a completely new security system for combating terrorism, and in those 11 years, the terrorist threat in Russia has been drastically reduced. At the same time, our citizens still face its terrible, inhumane manifestations, an example of which was the murder in December 2016 of Mr. Andrey Karlov, our Ambassador to Turkey. In April this year, a terrorist in the Saint Petersburg metro killed 15 people and injured dozens of others. These events once again highlighted the fact that today everyone must work collectively to fight the terrorist threat, because none of us is immune to it.

Our delegation supported the adoption in June of resolution 71/291, creating the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to strengthen the coordination of United Nations counter-terrorist activities. We expect that the Secretary-General's comprehensive reforms will also produce significant results in terms of improving the legal basis of counter-terrorism and providing targeted technical support to countries in need. We are grateful to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for the constructive and transparent manner in which they have developed the framework for this reform and for their readiness to take into account the opinions of interested States.

We welcome the recent decision to appoint a prominent Russian diplomat, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, as Under-Secretary-General and head of the Office of Counter-Terrorism. We firmly believe that his broad and multifaceted experience and knowledge of the United Nations system — from his work addressing new threats and challenges, including in Vienna — will enable an effective effort in this area, and we look forward to productive cooperation with the new entity.

Terrorism must be combated with unwavering adherence to the norms of international law, including respect for the sovereignty and equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as consistent, universal implementation of the relevant resolutions of the Security Council adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter. It is essential to ensure a balanced implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy and to combine the military and human rights aspects of counter-terrorist activities with broad, systemic efforts to eliminate the conditions that lead to terrorism.

At the same time, the most important tasks today include combating the problems of foreign terrorist fighters, financing for terrorism and the spread of terrorist ideology, including through the use of modern technology. Unfortunately, some contradictory concepts originally laid down in the strategy for preventing violent extremism have created obstacles to extracting real added value from it. We must take that into account in future preventive activities.

Let me emphasize once again that the success of the Secretary-General's reforms is not solely dependent on institutional changes within the United Nations. The political will and readiness of States to fight terrorism together is crucial. My country is resolved to do so.

Mrs. Rubiales de Chamorro (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, we thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/71/858) and you, Sir, for organizing this meeting.

We warmly congratulate Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov on assuming the leadership of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. We believe that his presence as Under-Secretary-General in the newly created Office will improve the Organization's counter-terrorism structures, ensuring greater coordination in the fight against terrorism throughout the entire system.

Nicaragua reiterates its firme condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, of which our people and Government have been victims in the past. In no circumstances should States or individuals be allowed to finance terrorism. Our delegation calls for efforts to counter the illicit funding of terrorism and for all of us to come together to that end.

Terrorism cannot and must not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, nor should such putative links be used to justify terrorism.

There is much to be done in this area, and we firmly support efforts to draft a convention on terrorism, calling on all Member States to demonstrate flexibility. We reaffirm our desire to contribute to the best of our ability to ensure that such a convention becomes a reality.

Our country is fully committed to implementing the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. That is why we have played an active role in the Assembly's fifth biennial review of the Strategy. States should implement the Strategy appropriately, transparently and comprehensively.

Civic and human security is one of Nicaragua's main strengths. It is crucial to social, political and economic stability and to a better quality of life, tranquillity, justice, peaceful coexistence and the full development of the individual. Nicaragua has developed a set of specific programmes and policies to fight the scourges of our time, including organized crime and trafficking in drugs, arms and humans. Those policies have been successful and one aspect of our strategy has been to work together with the population. That successful cooperation has made Nicaragua one of the safest countries in the region, untouched as we are by organized crime.

We have been sharing those policies with our Central American neighbours and other allied countries in order to fight organized crime and make Central America a region of peace. Nicaragua has made a conscious commitment, in both its homeland and the international community, to continuing to strengthen stability, tranquillity, security and peace as essential conditions for development. With a view to achieving our national ideals and freedom, our legacy from General Sandino, we will continue to make our best efforts.

Mr. Al Arsan (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): My delegation reiterates its support for the Secretary-General and his recommendations for strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to combat terrorism. Today, terrorism poses the most significant threat there is to international peace and security, hampers our national development and improvement plans and stands in the way of our ability to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Syrian Arab Republic is fully confident that the appointment of Ambassador Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov as the new Under-Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism is an important step in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. My country believes that Mr. Voronkov will seek to uphold the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the working procedures of our international Organization, particularly with regard to the quality of sovereignty and rights of Member States. To that end, we expect that he will reject double standards, dissociate himself

from political and financial polarization, considerations and pressures, and abide by the pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism.

Allow me to make the following observations, which we view as imperative for the success of United Nations efforts to combat terrorism.

My country believes that if we are to ensure the effectiveness and independence of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, we must shield it from the political pressures and financial polarization that some Governments bring to bear with a view to achieving specific agendas that run counter to the goals entrusted to the new Office. My country continues to have strong reservations concerning paragraph 3 of resolution 71/291 and emphasizes its resolve to call for that paragraph to be reconsidered at the periodic review of its implementation, since it constitutes an unwarranted and dangerous consideration that gives the Government of Saudi Arabia specific privileges within the framework of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

We also call for considering the issue of the transparency and seriousness of the Security Council's counter-terrorism resolutions. That will require a comprehensive review of the work of the task forces and bodies relating to counter-terrorism, in addition to the formulation of specific and clear-cut conclusions and recommendations. Furthermore, the various competencies of those task forces should be reviewed with a view to controlling wasteful expenditures.

My country's experience in dealing with terrorism is a bitter one. That is why we believe that the failure of the international community to grapple with the terrorism and armed terrorist groups that have overrun Syria is due to the failure of the Governments of some Member States to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, their violation of Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism, and the reluctance of Member States to hold to account Governments that sponsor terrorism, of which there are numerous examples.

We only have to look at the issue of foreign terrorist fighters to realize the gravity of the role played in it by the religious centres all over the world that receive millions of dollars in funding from the Governments of Member States, particularly Saudi Arabia and Qatar, on the pretext of spreading religious directives while in fact they are propagating radical Wahhabi ideology, inciting hatred and calling for sabotage, destruction and death in their quest to sow the seeds of sedition and sectarian and religious differences. At the same time, they are involved in recruiting thousands of young men and women and their families, sending them into combat as foreign terrorist fighters in the ranks of Da'esh and Jabhat Al-Nusra and the terrorist groups affiliated with them.

Since the very beginning of the crisis, my Government has been giving the Security Council proven information on the flow of foreign terrorist fighters through some of its neighbours, especially Turkey. Yet it took the international community three years to realize how dangerous the issue is and to begin to grapple with it. Even now some members of the United Nations are still trying to deal with it from a limited perspective, based on the possibility of such fighters returning to the countries from which they came.

The message is quite clear — the Governments of the States that have supported terrorism in Syria consider Syrians' lives to be cheap and our country's millennia-long civilization to be worthless. Our entire country's present and future have become a game on which others gamble. The so-called red line is about sending the terrorists to where they can disseminate their doctrines in Europe and the rest of the world. Unfortunately, innocent people have been paying the price of that everywhere — in Manchester, London, Brussels, Paris, Nice, New York and Boston — while the Governments of some States lack the courage to admit their policy errors in condoning the terrorism that has overrun Syria and Iraq and, as we all know, is aligned with terrorist Governments.

Mr. Bhattarai (Nepal), Vice-President, took the floor.

To deal with the problem, we have to pursue the mass media, social networks and Internet sites that incite hatred, radicalism and violence, recruit terrorists and spread such directives and instructions to their cells all over the world. We have to hold various Governments accountable for condoning such activities on the pretext of the right to free expression, even at the expense of people's right to live in peace and security. We have to review the money, financial sources and support going to terrorist groups and organizations. We have to call on those Governments to cut off the sources and end the financing for terrorist organizations that gives them direct support through illicit banking transactions and

transfers of oil and petroleum, particularly for Da'esh and Jabhat Al-Nusra. By demanding transparent and serious responses to these issues, the United Nations can prove that it is facing up to its crucial responsibility to confront the dangers of terrorism and the threat it represents to the whole world.

Mrs. Samarasinghe (Sri Lanka): My delegation would like to thank the President for organizing today's meeting and notes with appreciation the Secretary-General's report (A/71/858).

We welcome the creation of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism with a view to strengthening the capability of the United Nations system and assisting Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced way. We congratulate Ambassador Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov on his appointment as Under-Secretary General and head of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, which we are confident will strengthen the whole-of-the-United Nations approach that the 38 entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force seek to reflect in its mandate for coordination and coherence.

Sri Lanka looks forward to working closely with the Office and will make every endeavour to cooperate with it as it carries out its key functions. We also welcome its focus on capacity-building assistance to Member States. In that regard, in 2010, 2016 and 2017, Sri Lanka is fortunate enough to have hosted three regional workshops on effectively countering terrorism, organized by the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, for judges, prosecutors and police officers of South Asian Member States.

When terrorism strikes, it is an attack on all of us, and it is therefore incumbent on all of us to show solidarity and unity of purpose in combating it. It is in that context that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy becomes essential as a rallying call to action. Though we have made progress in its implementation since 2006, we have encountered many challenges as a result of the changing face of terrorism and violent extremism, not least owing to the phenomena of foreign terrorist fighters, the financing of terrorism, rapid technology advances, porous borders and large movements of people fleeing violence.

We must also give due consideration to the fourth pillar of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is that of ensuring that human rights and the rule of law are observed in our global efforts to combat terrorism. While terrorists may dehumanize us, the international community should not embrace their lawlessness and must never abandon its common humanity, which is what binds us together and gives us strength in our fight against terror.

In many parts of the world, violent extremism targets vulnerable and marginalized communities, children, minorities, women and girls. It is therefore imperative to ensure that we proactively include and engage the entities in the United Nations system that deal with children, minorities, women and girls. While we must make every effort to prevent refugee and asylum status from being abused for the purposes of perpetrating terror, we should not close our borders or our hearts too tightly lest we fail to protect the poor, weak, vulnerable and marginalized among us. At all times in this collective fight against terror, we must continue to fulfil our obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, international law and international human rights and humanitarian law.

We must also recognize that the building blocks for a normative framework for enhancing international cooperation in these areas are already present in the General Assembly's efforts, particularly the Ad Hoc Committee on International Terrorism, which has already led to the adoption of 14 sectoral conventions on the suppression of terrorism. Despite the fact that the Ad Hoc Committee is supported most Member States and is mandated by the Assembly to come up with a comprehensive legal framework to fill possible gaps in the existing sectoral conventions on terrorism, there has been a regrettable failure to muster the political will needed to break the current impasse surrounding the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

It is pertinent at this time to recall that concluding a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism was one of the key components of the plan of action aimed at combating terrorism in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It is time that all States Members mustered the necessary political will to conclude the comprehensive convention, so that the international community can send out a strong signal of its collective will to combat terrorism and contribute to the effective implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Sri Lanka welcomes and supports the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and reaffirms its commitment to its implementation.

Mr. Djani (Indonesia): The delegation of Indonesia is very pleased to be participating in this meeting, which advances the process of reforming the counter-terrorism architecture of the United Nations.

Indonesia is a nation that has first-hand experience of the suffering inflicted by terrorists. That is why my country has always taken the matter seriously and has often been at the forefront of deliberations and efforts aimed at containing and vanquishing that menace. In that connection, we join other delegations in welcoming the report of the Secretary-General, entitled "Capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" (A/71/858), issued in response to paragraph 70 of resolution 70/291 of 1 July 2016.

We share the view that the restructuring of the United Nation counter-terrorism architecture proposed in the report will enhance synergy among Member States and have a much greater impact on terrorism throughout the world. Terrorism remains a major threat not only to international peace and security but also to development and social advancement. Indonesia has always been concerned about the fact that fundamental elements of our response in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should include coordination, coherence and more effective monitoring and evaluation at the national, regional and international levels. To that end, and with a view to ensuring its seamless and consistent implementation, we have always urged that the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture be redesigned, re-energized and re-inspired, in the full certainty and understanding that terrorism and violent extremism are simply a human condition in development.

We believe that if the international community is to make adequate and sustainable progress with regard to terrorism, it is essential to proceed in the conviction that the threat of terrorism bears no relation to and shares none of its root causes with any particular religion, nationality, civilization or ethnicity. In Indonesia, we are adopting a combination of soft and hard approaches in combating the threat of terrorism and radical extremist groups. For the soft approach, we focus on counteracting radicalization and optimizing the role played in this by religious leaders, women and young people, alongside local governance, local leaders, non-governmental organizations, psychologists and sociologists. At the same time, we still see a hard approach as crucial, focusing on strengthening our law-enforcement system, raising awareness and promoting and protecting human rights.

My delegation therefore commends the tone, content and substance of the approach suggested in the report under consideration. We agree with the elements of coordination and coherence aimed at strengthening the capability of the United Nations system. In that regard, we believe that the new Office of Counter-Terrorism, as it is described — to be headed by an Under-Secretary-General who will report to the Secretary-General — is a strong statement that speaks to the ambition and efforts relating to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and is aimed at enhancing the coordination and coherence that Member States have sought for many years.

In that regard, we must respond to the challenge of new forms of radicalism and extremism, including terrorists' use of social media to spread their message of hate and fear and the problems of lone-wolf terrorists and returning foreign terrorist fighters. In our view, we must consider deploying a global movement to combat violent extremism and to consider how non-State actors, such as religious leaders, women and young people, can assist effectively in the context of the fight against terrorism. We must be innovative in combating terrorism, including by using a soft approach to preventing radicalism and extremism.

Lastly, my delegation hopes that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre will prioritize supporting the capacity-building of Member States, including through information sharing, thereby enabling them to work as strong and viable partners in our common response to terrorism.

Mr. Mohamed (Maldives): Let me begin by congratulating Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov on assuming the leadership of the Office of Counter-Terrorism. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my delegation's sincere appreciation to him and the Secretary-General for the openness and transparency shown during the wider consultations leading to the adoption of resolution 71/291 by consensus to establish the new Office of Counter-Terrorism. The adoption is symbolic in showing that the international community stands ready to take unified action to prevent the

practices and methods of violent extremism and all forms of terrorism, which are destroying the values of human dignity, peace and security.

Terrorism and violent extremism are the most profound threats to human progress and human rights throughout the world. As we speak today, they are escalating and have already helped to give rise to unprecedented humanitarian crises as millions of people are being forced from their homes. Terrorism has become more pervasive. While we continue to struggle to contain all forms of threats, new and more complex ones are emerging throughout the world. The urgency of the task of implementing concrete action so as to prevent and counter terrorism has become even more imperative.

The Maldives condemns all acts, methods and practices of violent extremism and terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, whoever carries them out by and on whatever grounds. The Government of Maldives has embarked on a number of concrete actions to curb foreign terrorist fighters and ensure the safety and security of all Maldivians. Consistent with that policy, the Maldives enacted an anti-terrorism law in 2015 making travelling overseas with the intent to fight in terrorist wars a serious criminal offence for any Maldivian.

The Government remains vigilant in monitoring suspected acts of terror. Furthermore, the Government has also passed an act criminalizing money-laundering and terrorist financing in the Maldives. Those key acts provide a robust framework focused on preventive measures for addressing violent extremism. Our national counter-terrorism centre, established in February 2016, is mandated as the leading national authority to coordinate efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. In 2016, it organized the Maldives' first international meeting on counter-terrorism and violent extremism, and plans for the second meeting are under way.

Maldives believes that streamlined counter-radicalization efforts must be stepped up if we are to ensure a lasting victory against violent extremism. In that regard, we are confident that the new counter-terrorism structure will better enhance the coordination of counter-terrorism-related activities across the United Nations system, while enabling it to effectively address the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism. It is also important to ensure that the new Office maintains a comprehensive approach that supports the balanced implementation of the Strategy across all four pillars.

Maldives believes that violent extremism and terrorism should have no place in modern societies. The perpetrators should be held accountable and their victims should be empowered. We believe that the best and strongest defence against terrorism is to present a united front against this menace, and that is exactly what we are doing here today. Maldives stands committed and ready to work with the international community on that front and calls on the States Members of the United Nations to work together to improve and sustain this 10-year-long journey to provide a peaceful environment for future generations to grow and nurture.

Mr. Saikal (Afghanistan): I thank the President for convening today's debate on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We thank the Secretary-General for his dedicated efforts to fulfil his commitment to creating the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, which in our view represents a key pillar of his reform agenda. We also congratulate Ambassador Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov on his appointment as Under-Secretary-General to lead that important Office. We look forward to working closely with him and his team to advance the United Nations counter-terrorism agenda.

Terrorism and violent extremism constitute one of the most serious threats to a stable and peaceful international order. In recent years, the scale and scope of terrorism has expanded and reached new levels and proportions across borders, regions and continents. The enemies of humankind are still terrorizing communities, undermining the rule of law, violating fundamental human rights and disrupting the lives of ordinary people. No country is more familiar with the horrors of terrorism than Afghanistan. Our people have been at the forefront of the global fight against terrorism for more than two decades. In that struggle, thousands of our citizens, our national security forces, tribal, religious and political leaders and other members of society have sacrificed their lives to secure peace in our country and advance global security.

For us, the fight against terrorism was the foundation on which we partnered with the global community to achieve a stable and prosperous Afghanistan. Over the years, we have achieved considerable progress in the security, economic, political and social spheres, all of which have led to the

emergence of a new Afghanistan. At this very moment, our national security forces are valiantly fighting a nexus of regional and international terrorist groups that have come to Afghanistan to destabilize our country. To name a few, we are confronting the Taliban, Da'esh, Al-Qaida, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Lashkar-e-Janghvi and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.

Despite logistical constraints, our security forces have inflicted heavy losses on those groups and kept them from asserting control over our territories. Consequently, they have resorted to gruesome attacks on civilians in densely populated areas that amount to blatant violations of international law, including international humanitarian law, indeed, to crimes against humanity. In that regard, I should point to some of the Taliban's most recent atrocities. Earlier this week, the Taliban attacked a hospital in western Ghōr province, killing close to 40 people, mainly civilians. One day later, they attacked a bus carrying educated young professionals in Kabul, killing and severely wounding more than 70 people. On 31 May, a truck bomb in the heart of the capital killed 150 people and left more than 500 severely wounded.

Terror and bloodshed are a frequent occurrence in Afghanistan, fomented by the terrorist safe havens and sanctuaries in our region from which extremist groups are produced, supported and dispatched to my country to carry out their evil agenda. However, our people and our security forces will never allow the enemies of peace in our country to disrupt our journey towards peace, stability and development. We will continue our long-standing struggle against that menace with fortitude and commitment. In that context, we look to our international partners, including the United Nations to continue to stand beside us in our shared endeavour.

Beyond the battlefield, we are working diligently to promote and advance regional cooperation to defeat terrorism and promote a more stable and prosperous region. On 6 June, amid the carnage of the heinous attack that had occurred just days earlier, we convened the Kabul Process for Peace and Security Cooperation, for which 26 countries and organizations assembled to coordinate efforts for ending the destructive cycle of terrorism, extremism and militancy in our region. Moreover, we are also collaborating with our near and distant neighbours on counter-terrorism issues within the framework of the Heart of Asia Process whose next ministerial meeting will be held in Baku later this year.

We have recently taken new measures to implement and strengthen national legislation to meet the provision of various treaties, conventions and Security Council resolutions concerning terrorism, including, but not limited to, resolutions 1373 (2001) and 2178 (2014). We have also amended our criminal code to unify all of Afghanistan's criminal legislation and ensure that it is better aligned with various Security Council resolutions.

In the area of law enforcement and border control, the National Security Council is leading inter-agency efforts on our national counter-terrorism strategy and action plan. Where countering the financing of terrorism is concerned, we have instituted new mechanisms to prevent the flow of unregulated currency. As a result, the Financial Action Task Force has recognized Afghanistan's compliance with its standards to combat money-laundering and terrorism financing.

The current scale of the terrorist threat worldwide reveals an obvious fact, which is that the international community's collective fight against terrorism has been slow, incomplete and inadequate by comparison to the challenges at hand. This, in our view, is the result of various factors: weak implementation of counter-terrorism resolutions and sanctions regimes; inefficient coordination on counter-terrorism issues within the United Nations Organization and with States; States' insufficient operational and technical capacity; and, in some cases, a lack of genuine effort by some to combat terrorism tangibly and in good faith, be it on the battlefield or in enacting and implementing domestic laws on counter-terrorism. These impediments must be reversed if we are to turn the tide against terrorist groups in different parts of the world, particularly in our region.

Addressing the problem of terrorist sanctuaries is a fundamental imperative for any degree of success in combating global terrorism. The phenomenon remains a key driver of terrorism and violent extremism. This issue is recognized in pillar II of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as various resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, including Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 2178 (2014), 2253 (2015) and 2322 (2016). In this connection, we believe the time is now for the Security Council and the international community to do more to ensure that States abide by and implement stated commitments, in accordance with international law and adherence to the Charter of the United Nations.

The creation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism presents a unique opportunity to change the calculus and help facilitate real and tangible change in the global fight against terrorism. It will be critically important to ensure that the Office of Counter-Terrorism operates with a clear and strong mandate and enjoys the full trust of Member States. Moreover, efforts aimed at weakening the work of the Office should be avoided. Even though it will function within the scope of the General Assembly, it should also cooperate and coordinate activities with the Security Council, as the principal organ of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. Such cooperation should not be limited to the provision of technical assistance alone, but should also cover other issues essential to a successful counter-terrorism approach.

Last but certainly not least, Afghanistan calls for the early conclusion of the comprehensive convention for combating international terrorism, which is of crucial importance to strengthening the international community's counter-terrorism architecture.

In conclusion, let me reassert our firm commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. For more than two decades we have resisted and combated terrorism with a deep sense of national pride. This struggle remains embedded in the social fabric of our society, and we are as committed as ever to defeating this global menace for the benefit of humankind, effectively and resolutely.

Mr. Clay (United Kingdom): We align ourselves with the statement made by the observer of the European Union.

On behalf of the United Kingdom, let me join others in welcoming the creation of the new United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and in congratulating Ambassador Vladimir Voronkov on his appointment as Under-Secretary-General.

At the outset, I want to thank the Secretary-General for this, his first major architectural reform of the United Nations. The creation of this new Office marks a step forward in the way that we tackle the global scourge of terrorism. It is the first of many. We have advocated for some time that the United Nations system should deliver a more coordinated, strategic and impactful response to today's terrorist threats. The new Office has great potential to support this step change. Now it must deliver, and the hard work starts today.

For this effort to succeed, the United Kingdom believes that preventing violent extremism must lie at the heart of the work of this new Office, just as it lies at the heart of its mandate. A balanced approach to counter-terrorism by the United Nations is impossible without a proper appreciation of prevention. We believe that the expertise and resources of the United Nations are ideally suited to the challenge posed by violent extremism. We need to understand how development, human rights, education, gender and other United Nations agendas feed into the risks of terrorism in vulnerable communities. This does not mean that every United Nations intervention around the world can or should be about prevention, but most are legitimately relevant to it. At a minimum, we must avoid unintentionally causing harm, a very real risk if prevention expertise is entirely absent from United Nations programming.

By preventing violent extremism, the United Nations has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to protect the world from the deadly call of terrorism. States owe it to their citizens, and the United Nations owes it to the world, to dedicate resources and energy to this fight.

Mr. Sadykov (Kazakhstan): I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Mr. Peter Thomson, Secretary-General António Guterres and the United Nations bodies for their tireless commitment to preventing and bringing an end to terrorism and violent extremism.

Kazakhstan especially welcomes the initiative to establish the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the appointment of its head, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, whose leadership will take us forward. We believe that further implementing reforms of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, as initiated by the Secretary-General, will result in a more definitive coordination and response to the fight against terrorism, which is constantly challenging us with its rapidly transforming methods and tactics. We believe that a balanced geographic representation for the new structure will generate bold and resourceful United Nations activities with genuine impact and long-lasting results.

A growing problem that Member States are facing is the return of radicalized militants after being recruited into conflict zones and engaged in brutal hostilities. It

is therefore important for countries to take effective measures both to counteract the destructive activities of the returned militants and to work for their subsequent deradicalization and gradual integration into civilian life. The increasing number of female foreign terrorist fighters will require special programmes for their specific needs and rehabilitation.

The Office of Counter-Terrorism should also give special attention to preventing the widespread and intensive use of the Internet by terrorist groups to recruit innocent citizens and spread radical ideology for the large-scale radicalization of the population, especially young people. Information technologies should be used to counter negative narratives, making the youth aware of these scourges, and should instead promote ideas of tolerance and goodwill. It should be utilized through a coordinated regional and global multilateral effort to promote goodwill and harmony in support of the measures of the Secretary-General.

Security and stability in the vast area of Central Asia can be achieved only if we mobilize the potential of regional structures, such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the League of Arab States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and others working closely with the United Nations counter-terrorism structures, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL and other organizations and partners. We are also required to develop a rapid emergency-response capacity, a strategy for disaster risk reduction and building resilience to withstand attacks on the vast complex of critical infrastructure. The latter are particularly vulnerable today, as they are powered by information technology and linked to energy systems in a closely connected globalized world.

Furthermore, we should ensure the widest possible implementation of multilateral mechanisms and instruments to combat the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. It is equally vital to shut down the channels of financial support for terrorist activities through the illegal trade in drugs, natural resources and cultural heritage artefacts. Kazakhstan is ready to strengthen and expand cooperation in this much-needed area.

In June 2017, Kazakhstan made a voluntary financial contribution to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre fund in order to set up a project supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. We did so with a view to further improving counter-terrorism-mechanism partnerships. Such cooperation and partnerships will help us to more effectively counteract these threats under the aegis of the United Nations.

Here my delegation would like to recall the initiatives of the President of Kazakhstan, Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev who, in the General Assembly in September 2015 (see A/70/PV.13), proposed the creation of a global coalition to combat terrorism under the stewardship of the United Nations. The purpose of the coalition is to develop a unified mechanism for monitoring, detaining and extraditing all those guilty of crimes of terrorism and extremism, as well as for compiling a single list of terrorist organizations.

We are convinced that implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the regional and national levels is also crucial for promoting security, peace and sustainable development goals. Kazakhstan stands ready to strengthen multilateral efforts to build the capacities of Member States by promoting regional and international cooperation.

Mr. Almahmoud (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): First of all, I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his tireless efforts to improve the United Nations systems approach to combat terrorism.

We congratulate Mr. Vladimir Voronkov on his appointment to head the new United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

More than ever, the international community needs to work together closely in order to tackle those who support and finance terrorism. With that objective, we are confident that the Office of Counter-Terrorism will coordinate international efforts and enhance cooperation between Member States and United Nations entities. We call on the Office to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced manner, and to focus on prevention and the strengthening of cooperation with international institutions and bodies responsible for combating terrorism in order to promote a better exchange of experiences and practices.

We are cooperating with regional and international partners to combat Da'esh and other terrorist

organizations and participating actively in the Global Coalition against Da'esh. We should also exchange best experiences and practices, strengthen capacity-building and ensure stability and financial support.

We have donated $50 million to rebuild the city of Mosul and $350 million to the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre so as to help Member States implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It is also important to develop the means to respond to the different ways that extremists recruit adherents. We have been cooperating with the United States in order to create the Sawab Centre, which is aimed at raising awareness and fighting extremism on social networks.

Young people under the age of 25 make up 60 per cent of Arab societies, and their participation is important if we are to protect them from extremist groups. We have appointed a 22-year-old minister with a view to encouraging young people to participate in decision-making. We have also designated a minister in charge of tolerance to strengthen coexistence, peace and respect for religions and cultures.

Empowering women is an important way of enabling society to counter extremism and terrorist groups, which is why we support UN-Women in its efforts to strengthen the role of women and enhance gender parity in the fight against terrorism.

No State can fight terrorism and extremism alone. That is why the Riyadh summit in May saw the participation of 55 Arab States and of the United States, with the purpose of strengthening cooperation and coordination in fighting extremism and strengthening stability and international security.

In conclusion, we look forward to working with Mr. Voronkov to root out terrorism.

Ms. Sigurdardottir (Iceland): Despite the ongoing reports of terrorist outrages that continue to devastate communities around the world, we can draw some encouragement from the progress achieved in realigning efforts in the United Nations to fight this scourge of our time.

At the outset, I would like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General for his strong leadership in building on the outcome of the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. His efforts to rationalize the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture are practicable. What is more, the process was transparent, inclusive and highly efficient, which was key to gaining universal support among Member States.

The Office of Counter-Terrorism was established through the adoption of resolution 71/291 in June. I would like to congratulate Ambassador Voronkov on his appointment as Under-Secretary-General and head of the Office, and to wish him every success in his important role. It is crucial that the Office of Counter-Terrorism ensures the balanced and effective implementation of all four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Including prevention, through the agenda on the prevention of violent extremism, is extremely important. Its focus on the values of tolerance, and pluralism provides the necessary ingredients for building peaceful and inclusive societies. We must also ensure that all measures taken against terrorism are in line with international law and international human rights instruments.

It is vital to ensure that the United Nations demonstrates a singleness of purpose in tackling terrorism and violent extremism. We look forward to seeing improvements in overall coordination and assistance to Member States flowing from the Secretary-General's reforms. We also support the Secretary-General's grounding of his proposals in the broader context of his wider reforms in the areas of peace and security and development. Sustainable Development Goal 16 has a major role to play in addressing the drivers of terrorism. If properly implemented, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will make a major contribution to addressing the causes of terrorism and violent extremism.

Mr. Zhang Dianbin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening today's meeting. My thanks also go to Secretary-General Guterres and the Secretariat for their efforts to advance the reform of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture. China welcomes the Secretary-General's appointment of Ambassador Voronkov as Under-Secretary-General at the helm of the new United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Terrorism is the common enemy of humankind, and it must be fought using a single set of standards. Furthermore, terrorism should not be identified with any specific ethnicity, religion or culture. It behoves the United Nations to strengthen its counter-terrorism cooperation with its broad membership and the

international community, especially with a view to helping countries with their counter-terrorism capacity-building. China supports the United Nations system in further enhancing its counter-terrorism capacities with a view to improving its help to Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant Security Council resolutions in a balanced manner.

With the reform of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism architecture under way, China looks forward to seeing the new Secretary-General and the Office of Counter-Terrorism get off to a good start. In the course of such reform, we urge adherence to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in the exercise of the Organization's stewardship; strengthened coordination within the United Nations; and the forging of synergy with improved efficiency and closer tracking of new developments, such as the phenomenon of terrorists using the Internet and other information and communication technologies in their activities.

The division of functions between the General Assembly and the Security Council in the area of counter-terrorism should be respected. The support and cooperation of Member States are indispensable to counter-terrorism efforts. China looks forward to seeing the United Nations strengthen communication and coordination with its membership in order to build a broad support base and pave the way forward for future iterations of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Begeç (Turkey): We join others in thanking the President for convening this meeting and the Secretary-General for his report (A/71/858). We would like to express our full support to the Secretary-General's commitment to adapting the United Nations system to the ever-evolving threat of terrorism. The establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism represents a major institutional reform. We welcome the appointment of the new Under-Secretary-General, Ambassador Voronkov, and wish him well in his new duties. I would like to reiterate our views regarding the new Office.

Our main task should be giving assistance to Member States, including capacity-building, at their request, with a view to achieving balanced implementation of the Strategy across its four pillars. In that regard, while activities aimed at preventing violent extremism and individual radicalization are necessary, measures to combat terrorism and to build States' capacities to that end remain crucial. Preventive measures should focus on combating intolerance, social exclusion and all forms of xenophobia. The new entity should pursue regular and close dialogue with Member States. It should maintain mechanisms for close coordination with the Department of Political Affairs, since the issue of terrorism cannot be addressed in isolation from its political context. Further streamlining of counter-terrorism activities and close coordination with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force are also essential. The new Office will be handling delicate matters, which we are sure it will carry out with due care. In that regard, Turkey remains committed to contributing to the work of the Office.

Recent terrorist attacks across the globe confirm that no country is immune to this threat. We would like to pay our respects to the memories of all the victims of terrorism, including those of the recent attacks in Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Turkey has also experienced the ruthless face of terrorism from the Kurdish Workers Party, the People's Protection Units, Da'esh and the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party. We are fully determined to continue our fight against those terrorist organizations.

Effective bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation is required to cope with terrorism. Stopping the flow of foreign terrorist fighters joining the ranks of Da'esh is an indispensable part of our efforts. To that end, we have taken the initiative to establish both physical and technological measures, including a no-entry list, which now includes more than 53,000 names, and risk-analysis units at airports and transport operations, which have denied entry to more than 4,000 suspected foreign terrorist fighters. More than 5,000 people have been deported in that context. Furthermore, nearly 8,000 individuals with Da'esh, the Al-Nusra Front and Al-Qaida, including almost 3,500 foreigners, have been detained and more than 2,600 affiliated individuals are under arrest.

However, recent military operations in Syria and Iraq have triggered the movement of foreign terrorist fighters to other conflict zones, third countries and countries of origin. In that context, prompt information exchange, intelligence sharing and genuine cooperation are crucial.

In our fight against Da'esh, we should not substitute one terrorist organization for another. Adopting a

selective approach is counterproductive. There are no good or bad terrorists. A terrorist organization cannot be legitimized because it is fighting another terrorist organization. In that regard, in Raqqa we cannot afford to repeat the mistakes made in Manbij.

Last but not least, the processes that lead to terrorism may have different triggering factors. Protracted conflicts nourish conditions conducive to terrorism. The absence of the rule of law; violations of human rights; ethnic, national and religious discrimination, including Islamophobia; and political exclusion and socioeconomic marginalization can all contribute to creating such conditions. We should always be guided in our efforts by the principle that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any specific religion, nationality or ethnic group.

Mr. Al-Mouallimi (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the President for convening this meeting. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his focus on efforts to combat terrorism since he assumed his post, and for assisting Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars. Its balanced implementation is crucial.

The creation of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism was also facilitated by his inclusion of States in the negotiations. I congratulate the Under-Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office, Mr. Voronkov and wish him every success in his duties, which will focus on promoting counter-terrorism efforts within the United Nations system and with all partners. We are committed to sparing no effort to cooperate with the Under-Secretary-General and the Office of Counter-Terrorism. Together we will work to promote the activities of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, with a particular focus on capacity-building and increasing donations to the Centre.

Cooperation, coordination and the joint efforts of United Nations bodies in countering terrorism must be bolstered and reflected positively throughout the United Nations system and in its cooperation with partners. Combating terrorism is an international responsibility that requires consistent effort and coordination among States and specialized centres. To address its repercussions, we must develop programmes and strategies to implement activities under the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. That is how we will be able to make visible progress in fighting terrorism at the global level.

There are a number of important factors that must not be ignored. Terrorism should not be associated with a particular religion, culture or nationality. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia firmly condemns all acts of terrorism, regardless of who the perpetrators and victims are. We condemn all terrorist groups and States that finance or countenance acts of terrorism and we believe firmly that there can be no justification for terrorist activities. We must focus on the fact that the fight against terrorism is a long-distance race and cannot be conducted by military means alone. We must fight the terrorists' ideologies and block their sources of financing if we want our efforts to succeed. In that regard, Saudi Arabia has intensified its efforts not only on the security front but also in the fight against the ideology of violent extremism, by establishing the ETIDAL Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology, as well as other institutions at the international level, such as the Monasaha management centres, an innovative initiative aimed at rehabilitating former terrorists and preventing terrorism.

As part of these efforts, it is vital that we address the underlying causes of terrorism, including foreign occupation, marginalization and the promotion of terrorist ideology. For that, we need to coordinate international efforts, and my country established the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre to that end. We will continue to support the Centre and urge all Member States to assist it in implementing its programmes and achieving its goals.

Mr. García Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Argentina affirms its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Acts of terrorism not only pose a threat to international peace and security, they are a threat to human life and undermine countries' stability, consolidation of democracy and socioeconomic development.

Argentina's efforts to prevent and eradicate terrorism are based on full respect for the rule of law and the fundamental guarantees of international law, international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, and on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Argentina has been a victim of international terrorism on two occasions, in 1992 and 1994. On 18 July, we marked the twenty-third anniversary of the 1994 attack on the headquarters

of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association. That is why my country was one of the first to draw attention to the importance of ensuring that the international community establishes clear definitions that can help lay the foundations for a policy of cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism.

Terrorism undermines the values and principles of States and of our democracy and liberties, which is why combating it requires that we take an integrated and multidimensional approach, based on broad cooperation, if we are to address its threat in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorism cannot be tackled solely through defence and security measures but must be based on a comprehensive approach, such as that reflected in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, based on balanced implementation of the Strategy's four pillars and in full respect for international law and international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law.

I want to emphasize my country's firm commitment to the Strategy and to the resolutions adopted within the framework of its review, which encompass the values and principles of the United Nations that underpin Argentina's position on the fight against terrorism, as well as covering the new facets that terrorism and violent extremism have acquired in recent years.

I would particularly like to emphasize the speed and effectiveness with which the Secretary-General has decided to carry out the mandate laid down in paragraph 70 of resolution 70/291, "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review", which my country had the privilege of co-facilitating with Iceland last year. The establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism is a step in the right direction for improving the coordination and coherence of United Nations activities against terrorism in the areas represented by the Strategy's four pillars, as well as the capacity of the United Nations to assist Member States and mobilize the resources needed to fight terrorism and prevent the violent extremism that leads to it. We welcome Mr. Voronkov's appointment to head the Office and would like to assure him of our delegation's full cooperation in the tasks before him.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

United Nations A/71/PV.94

General Assembly
Seventy-first session

Official Records

94th plenary meeting
Friday, 28 July 2017, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Thomson ..... (Fiji)

In the absence of the President, Ms. Young (Belize), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 118 *(continued)*

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/71/858)

Mr. Andambi (Kenya): I thank you, Madam President, for hosting this important debate at a time when the United Nations is preparing to revamp its counter-terrorism architecture, following the initiative by the Secretary-General to create the Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Kenya takes this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Vladimir Voronkov of the Russian Federation on his elevation as the Under-Secretary-General in the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. We hope that, under his leadership, the Office of Counter-Terrorism will continue to deepen the trend of open and transparent relations with Member States that was started by its predecessor, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

We also thank the Secretary-General for his initiatives aimed at enhancing the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We welcome his reports on this endeavour.

The adoption by consensus of resolution 70/291, on 19 July 2016, symbolized the commitment of the Assembly and the strong resolve of the international community to act in unity to address the rapidly evolving phenomenon of terrorism. Member States sought to update the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to ensure a balanced implementation of its four pillars.

The resolution also called on the Secretary-General to provide options for enhancing the coherence and coordination of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture. The Office of Counter-Terrorism was thus created to ensure dedicated and focused coordination of 38 United Nations entities directly or indirectly involved in counter-terrorism through their various mandates. We hope that even as its nascent structures evolve, the Office of Counter-Terrorism will ensure equitable geographic representation within its ranks, particularly drawing from the expertise of countries on the front lines of the war against terrorism, including in Africa.

Kenya believes that the war against terrorism will be won at the subregional level where neighbouring States put in place uniform measures to counter violent extremism that leads to terrorism. Sharing information on terrorism among neighbours creates incentives and synergies at the subregional level to counter all facets of terrorism.

The Office of Counter-Terrorism will be crucial in mobilizing Member States to adopt common, effective strategies against terrorism, based on best practices.

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Such strategies can succeed only if Member States are capacitated adequately to prevent and counter incitement to violent extremism, to strengthen their legal frameworks and criminal justice systems, to enhance border security and management and to manage and reintegrate returnees.

It is indicated in the Secretary-General's report that we will succeed in countering terrorism if we adopt a whole-of- society and an all-of-United-Nations inclusive approach to address, inter alia, the socioeconomic circumstances that feed the violent extremist narrative and ideology and Member States adopt the various recommendations in successive United Nations reports in developing their own national plans of action against violent extremism. Kenya launched its national strategy to counter violent extremism in September 2016 after amending various laws to align it with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Kenya's strategy to counter the narratives and ideologies of violent extremism is anchored in the need to inspire, rally and facilitate an all-inclusive and global rejection of extremist ideologies hostile to Kenya's nationhood and way of life.

Allow me to share some of the lessons learned from our experiences thus far.

First, there is a need to prevent conflicts and expeditiously resolve existing ones. No narrative to counter any ideology can succeed if communities remain engaged in open hostilities. The prevention and resolution of conflict through peaceful means, including through dialogue and mediation, must always remain the preferred course of action. At the regional and international levels, the primacy of politics in sustaining peace must always take precedence. A case in point is the successful evolution of the political process in Somalia coupled with the successes of the African Union Mission in Somalia against Al-Shabaab, which has resulted in weakening that terrorist organization.

Secondly, there is a need to improve coordination nationally, regionally and internationally through the timely sharing of information and best practices. Countering extremist narratives should be nationally owned and led by the Government as the main legitimate authority in every country and as the focal point to mobilize resources, coordinate with the various public and private actors and other regional Governments in developing the strategic communication plan for executing the regional counter-narratives. The coordination of public and private partnerships, particularly civil society, is crucial for the success of counter-messaging.

Thirdly, investing in deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration is key to winning the war of ideas with violent extremist groups. All major faiths espouse the invaluable importance of the concept of forgiveness in fostering healing in every society. Forgiving and rehabilitating violent extremists is perhaps the most powerful and sustainable counter-narrative, particularly with regard to young people who embrace radicalization out of peer pressure and the adventurism of youth. The future strength of any society is shaped by the values and hope instilled in its youth. Engaging all faith-based leaders to own and execute counter-extremist narratives in their local faith communities is very crucial, just as is providing support and encouragement to families and societies in welcoming back reformed extremists.

Fourthly, Governments should formulate inclusive policies to address the various socioeconomic and political drivers that fuel violent extremist narratives. Proper and timely communication on the formulation and implementation of such policies is crucial for promoting national ownership and support and eliciting feedback on gaps in execution at every stage.

Fifthly, all efforts — whether local, regional or international — must be properly resourced at every stage. The mandate and capabilities given to any entity in the value chain must be properly matched and resourced financially and otherwise. Investing in — especially online and rehabilitation — educational programmes and early-warning systems all require enormous resources and efforts to execute. However, as the brutality and sheer barbarism of Da'esh, Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab and Al-Qaida affiliates has shown, it is a necessary and worthy investment to defend the values in which we all believe.

In conclusion, I reiterate Kenya's commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and recognition of the importance of the proper coordination and sharing of information for its success. We look forward to further engagement with the Office of Counter-Terrorism through the General Assembly.

Mr. Al Habib (Islamic Republic of Iran): Let me begin by extending through you, Madam President, our sincere congratulations to Mr. Vladimir Voronkov on his appointment to assume the leadership of the

newly established Office of Counter-Terrorism. We hope that, during his mandate, the United Nations counter-terrorism structure will improve in a way that not only ensures the enhanced coordination of counter-terrorism related activities across the United Nations system, but also promotes the United Nations capacity for better addressing the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism. In our view, reform is a constant and ongoing process, and we look forward to Mr. Voronkov bringing greater professionalism, efficiency, impartiality, transparency and predictability to the Office of Counter-Terrorism's activities.

Terrorism as a multidimensional phenomenon can be defeated only if a comprehensive plan is devised and implemented by the various relevant stakeholders in a coordinated manner. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides such a common platform for cooperation. In our view, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy continues to be central to addressing the scourge of terrorism, hence the importance of supporting the implementation of the Strategy in an integrated and balanced way.

In planning any strategy to combat terrorism, it is vital to address all drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism both at the internal and international levels in a balanced manner. At the same time, in order to achieve success in combating terrorism, it is crucial to tackle the destructive ideologies that manipulate and exploit the mindsets of the people, especially young people, so as to incite them to terrorism.

In the world in which we live today, defeating violent extremism would be unthinkable without countering takfiri ideology. That is the dark ideology used by terrorists from Al-Qaida to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham, to craft distorted narratives based on the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of Islam so as to justify violence. That ideology cannot be eliminated solely through military, political or economic means. Any effective strategy against it must entail a major cultural and ideological component at its core.

We must also recognize that selective or double standards and simply categorizing good and bad terrorism based on short-term political interests should not be used to help us approve terrorism. Those kinds of erroneous approaches would only undermine international trust and cooperation in countering terrorism. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been the target of terrorist acts in various forms and manifestations, including State-sponsored terrorism. Over the past decade, approximately 17,000 Iranian individuals have been killed by terrorist attacks, the majority of which were carried out by the Mujaheddin e Khalq organization. It is regrettable that some States in pursuit of a short-sighted political agenda have not only delisted and harboured members of such a notorious and dangerous terrorist organization, but have also offered them support.

The legitimate struggle of people under foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation cannot be equated with terrorism. We strongly condemn any use of force to suppress people in a struggle against foreign occupation and exercising their right to self-determination. The brutalization of people who remain under foreign occupation in Palestine by the Israeli regime is the gravest form of terrorism and should be condemned by the international community.

Let me conclude by reiterating that the Islamic Republic of Iran remains committed to the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We stand ready to help Mr. Voronkov and his team in discharging their important functions in pursuing the goals of ridding the world of terrorism, and we call on all peace-loving States Members of the United Nations to fulfil their commitments in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Ms. Al-Thani (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): The State of Qatar thanks the Secretary-General for his efforts to implement resolution 71/291, on strengthening the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and for his commitment to involving Member States in that endeavour.

We again welcome the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Office and the appointment of Mr. Vladimir Voronkov as the Under-Secretary-General to lead the Office. We look forward to working with him.

We in Qatar are particularly interested in the work of regional and United Nations mechanisms to eradicate terrorism and address its root causes. We reaffirm our condemnation of terrorism in all forums, regardless of its forms, perpetrators or justifications. Since the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Qatar is committed to fully implementing all measures therein in order to address the root causes of terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation in combating terrorism.

We fully respect our international commitments within the framework of the Security Council to fight terrorism. We are also committed to cooperating with the various United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, including the Security Council committees, groups of experts and the Working Group on Facilitating the Integrated Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Qatar has made a financial contribution in support of that Working Group and will continue to work with the Group so as to strengthen partnership in capacity-building. We also launch projects to prevent violent extremism and to address the root causes of terrorism. In our bilateral cooperation efforts to combat terrorism and end its financing, we have concluded several bilateral agreements, such as the memorandum of understanding that we just signed with the United States to combat the financing of terrorism. Qatar continues to modernize its counter-terrorism legislation in an effort to address all emerging threats.

The State of Qatar continues its global approach in addressing terrorism. It is an international partner in global efforts to combat terrorism at the military, financial and legal levels. We will do our utmost to strengthen efforts to build technical capacity to prevent violent extremism, which leads to terrorism, and to bolster efforts aimed at eliminating terrorism, for example, by combating security and political approaches based on suppression, injustice and discrimination, which provide a breeding ground for terrorism.

Because we believe that prevention efforts are important, we took the initiative to convene a General Assembly meeting on the prevention of violent extremism among children and young people, which was held in July 2006. We have also launched several initiatives, such as Silatech, which seeks to boost employment for young people. It covers more than 15 countries and has financed tens of thousands of projects managed by young people. There is yet another initiative for children in volatile environments that are used by terrorists to recruit young people. It allows children who lost access to education following conflicts, war and natural disasters to enjoy their right to education once again.

To prevent violence, we have taken a global approach, which is based on the Strategy's four pillars, including strengthening tolerance for the culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations and religions. We host several think-tanks in our region. We also promote the freedom of expression and freedom of the press to thwart any attempt to use terrorism for political means.

Mr. Locsin (Philippines): There are many ways to fight terrorism but only one way to destroy it, and that is to do so. The roots of terrorism cannot be traced seriously to any cause — social and economic inequality or religious and ethnic differences — but only to the fallen nature of man, which can corrupt any idea and which since the Holocaust has never sunk so low. It is also clear that there can be no political accommodation with terrorism. We cannot buy safety from terrorism by yielding to any of its demands. We cannot live with terrorism because it will not let us live.

The Brazilian philosopher Roberto Mangabeira Unger told us in the classroom that the means prefigure the end. As we have seen, terrorist means can end only in a reign of terror. It is said that one man's terrorist is another man's patriot. No, the new terrorists have no country and no cause other than taking delight in inflicting torture and death to spread the terror of their name and thereby instil a willing submission to more cruelty. It is perilous because it can be self-serving to define terrorism. It is as hard to arrive at a common definition of it as it is to define pornography, but we know it when we see it. We know it when we view what terrorists do to the women and girls they rape and trade or murder after use; to the men and boys whose throats they slit, or burn or drown in cages; to those they fling from roof tops in boyish fun and to the cities they take and hold until they themselves destroy them or which have to be destroyed to liberate them. In the destruction of cultural artefacts, terrorism is the enemy of memory so that those who survive know only the terror of a name.

It is an evil so pure that it must be countered with means that are sure through a global effort against terror on every front, by every society, even by those not yet threatened because they will be attacked. In May, terrorists who pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Sham backed by foreign fighters proclaimed their control of Marawi, the capital and largest city of Lanao del Sur in Mindanao, the Philippines, with a population of 200,000. They had long before entrenched and fortified themselves in the community. We did not see it coming because we are a democracy pledged to diversity. The presence of foreign terrorist fighters spoke to the transnational nature of the takeover. While the international community is

successfully closing doors to such terrorist groups, new doors are opening up for them in other parts of the world.

Marawi highlights important points of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/71/858). It reaffirms that Member States regard terrorism as one of the gravest threats, if not the gravest threat, to peace and security anywhere in the world. The fight against terrorism should unite us all. Foreign terrorist operations do not recognize borders, and the complexity and reach of the threat they pose have expanded. Every civilized society they destroy is a platform for the destruction of the next one. To put a stop to them, Member States must work together. International cooperation must cover the whole range of the counter-terrorism spectrum, from border control to countering the narratives of violent extremism and, always and forever, to fighting it.

Finally, the United Nations has assumed a critical leadership role in bringing together in a cohesive whole all the work on counter-terrorism undertaken by Member States and the United Nations so as to bring about real results and not more rhetoric. On that note, the Philippines welcomes the creation of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Mr. Bin Momen (Bangladesh): In recent times, we have seen significant strides in defeating certain international terrorist groups, while the situation remains grim in a number of other contexts, with pernicious effects on innocent civilians. Heinous terrorist attacks around the world continue to expose the lurking threats in our midst and the growing ideological networks of dominant international terrorist groups. United Nations peacekeeping personnel and facilities are being made frequent targets of terrorist attacks, with a rising number of fatalities. It is evident that terrorists have been quick to take advantage of the divergences in the international community's understanding and response to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Against that backdrop, thanks to the collective efforts of Member States, the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy last year witnessed the adoption by consensus of resolution 70/293. The resolution reaffirmed Member States' resolve to project a united front in promoting the comprehensive and balanced implementation of all four pillars of the Global Strategy. It also gave a positive nod to the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism as a possible template for national and regional-level implementation.

My delegation takes this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov for being appointed as the Under-Secretary-General to lead the newly created United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. We hope that the initiative will demonstrably contribute to strengthening the United Nations strategic leadership in international efforts to address the generational challenges of terrorism and violent extremism. To that effect, we particularly emphasize the importance of enhanced coordination and consultation among various United Nations entities, providing capacity-building support at the national and regional levels. Among other priorities, we clearly see the need for ensuring increased, regular and transparent interface between the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the concerned United Nations Resident Coordinator's office.

In Bangladesh, our counter-terrorism efforts are guided by the global norms and standards set by the United Nations, while we try to calibrate practical measures on the ground in response to the local specificities. That has led to the significant and progressive scaling-up of our Government's counter-terrorism response at the policy, legal and institutional levels, in line with its avowed zero-tolerance approach.

Bangladesh is a State party to most international counter-terrorism instruments and has instituted a national mechanism for promoting compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. The Government has made it clear that we will not allow our territory to be used by any regional operatives to cause or incite harm against any of our neighbouring countries.

Likewise, our Government maintains the unequivocal stand that a terrorist is a terrorist and does not deserve to be identified by any belief, caste or creed. With the steadfast support of our people in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, our law-enforcement authorities have identified a number of masterminds, financiers and foot soldiers, and dealt with them under the purview of the law. Sustained efforts are being made to unearth the location of the remaining operatives and bring them to justice. The issues of victim protection and assistance are receiving added attention.

Further capacity-building of the judiciary, intelligence, investigation and prosecution authorities, including focus on human rights training, remains a priority. In that context, we acknowledge the capacity-building programmes run by the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate at the regional level, and recommend the possible recalibration of its design and purpose at this stage to respond to specific national requirements.

Bangladesh maintains a decisive stand on preventing and intercepting the movements of foreign terrorist fighters through our territory. We underscore the need for enhanced international cooperation on multimodal transport security, seeking access to cost-effective screening and detection technologies in resource-constrained settings. Our comprehensive and coordinated measures to combat the financing of terrorism and money-laundering have been duly recognized by the Financial Action Task Force, among others.

We are partnering with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in order to gain a better understanding of designation, asset-freezing and prosecution relating to counter-terrorism cases. We recognize the need to have informed discussions concerning a possible nexus at the regional level between arms proliferation and other transnational organized crimes, on the one hand, and terrorism and violent extremism, on the other. We urge the international community to refrain from hastily labelling any terrorist threats or activities to help avoid misperceptions about situations on the ground.

Like others, Bangladesh shares concerns over the fast-evolving and extensive use of the Internet by terrorists in propagating their misguided and vicious narratives. The local customized versions of such narratives tend to promote a religious extremist agenda as an antithesis to the democratic, pluralist and secular principles upheld by our Constitution and State organs. They manage to tap into a sustained sense of grievance by referring to the ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crises in large tracts of the Muslim world, as well as the palpable trends of Islamophobia and xenophobia in parts of the world.

Our Government has been working with partners in the private sector and academia to track the nature and interface of such contents in the cybersphere. The concerned public- and private-sector entities have been exploring various modalities for enhancing cooperation with the aim of preventing the spread of terrorist contents and narratives, and also furnishing alternative narratives based on messages that resonate with the target audience. We acknowledge the importance of a comprehensive international framework to achieve a shared understanding among all concerned stakeholders about undertaking proactive, meaningful and effective measures to address the challenges posed by terrorist activities on the Internet while upholding fundamental freedoms and human rights.

Our Government continues to attach great importance to a whole-of-society approach to preventing and countering violent extremism that is conducive to terrorism. At the personal directives of our Honourable Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, multi-stakeholder platforms have been made operational at the grass-roots to build awareness and safeguards against the spread of violent extremism. Emphasis is being placed on building community resilience and engagement, including through enhanced participation in community policing and women- and youth-led initiatives. Religious leaders are being encouraged to disseminate counter-terrorist narratives at the local level, and deradicalization efforts are being actively considered in prison settings. The Government sees merit in developing a national plan of action to prevent violent extremism.

We appreciate the readiness expressed by the United Nations and other international partners to support Bangladesh's counter-terrorism efforts. In broad terms, we reiterate our stand on the following priorities in the international context.

First, we wish to see definite progress in the work on developing a comprehensive convention on terrorism.

Secondly, it is imperative that commitment to global counter-terrorism efforts be translated into unqualified withdrawal and rejection of support for the masterminds, financiers, abettors and sympathizers of terrorist and violent extremist acts, irrespective of their denomination or affiliation. A seamless flow of information and intelligence among national jurisdictions continues to be critical.

Thirdly, there must be demonstrable efforts to find lasting solutions to the problems of illegal foreign occupation, colonization and protracted conflicts if we are to end these recurrent sources of grievance among various groups, including young, impressionable people, which terrorists tend to exploit to their advantage.

Fourthly, shared understanding and cooperation among the stakeholders concerned, including the private sector, is essential to effective strategic communication aimed at defeating terrorist narratives and ideologies.

Lastly, it is still crucial to address the resource gaps and related challenges that the United Nations is dealing with in scaling up its capacity-building support for Member States' identified needs and priorities. In that context, we urge the Secretary-General to continue to build on an analysis of the scope and challenges of the current United Nations capacity-building efforts and to provide a realistic assessment of the resources required to support Member States' efforts to comprehensively implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In conclusion, as a staunch and reliable partner in the international community, Bangladesh remains committed to eliminating the scourges of terrorism and violent extremism, which also threaten to erode some of our hard-earned development gains.

Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan): We welcome Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov's appointment as the new Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism. We hope that the establishment of the new Office and Mr. Voronkov's appointment will improve the overall coherence and coordination of counter-terrorism-related activities across the United Nations system. Pakistan fully supports the Secretary-General's reform agenda and will continue to work with other Member States to achieve it.

In the past decade, the international community has created many structures, taken tougher measures and invested billions of dollars in this fight. Yet terrorism continues to pose the most complex and daunting challenge of our time. An important factor, particularly in the past 20 years, has been the inability or unwillingness of the international community to deal with the problem of conditions that are conducive to terrorism. We believe that if we do not address the underlying causes of terrorism, we will be fighting only its symptoms.

We have always contended that protracted, unresolved conflicts, the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, the denial of the right to self-determination, political and economic injustice and political marginalization and alienation contribute to the spread of terrorism. If we are to counter terrorism comprehensively, we cannot separate it from its political context. It is therefore vital to ensure that the new Office of Counter-Terrorism works closely with the Department of Political Affairs in addressing the underlying causes of terrorism. In that regard, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remains the most comprehensive document that we have for assisting Member States in eliminating terrorism, while Member States continue to have sole responsibility for implementing it. The new Office should therefore focus on how best to ensure that the system can meet the technical requirements, when asked to do so by Member States. We also believe that the principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations of non-interference in the internal affairs of States remains fundamental — indeed, sacrosanct.

We hope that the new Office will strengthen cooperation with other international and regional organizations and improve the mobilization of resources for building the capacity of Member States' projects for dealing with the menace of terrorism. There is a global consensus that terrorism cannot be associated with any religion. We urge the new Under-Secretary-General to work with Member States to strengthen that consensus and discourage forces that try to spread negative Islamophobic propaganda.

Pakistan has been a major victim of terrorism, including terrorism supported, sponsored and financed by regionally based terrorist entities and organizations. We have lost more than 60,000 lives, and many more people have been injured. But those losses have not diminished my country's commitment to fighting this menace. They have only strengthened our resolve. Pakistan has achieved tremendous success in its fight against terrorism, and we will continue to strive for more in our national capacity. In that context, at the United Nations we look forward to working closely with Member States, as well as the new Office of Counter-Terrorism, to assist other States by sharing our experience in the effort to win this fight, so significant for our times.

Mr. Bazadough (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the President for convening today's meeting to discuss the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Since this is the first formal meeting to be held on the issue following the Assembly's recent adoption of resolution 71/291, establishing the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov on his appointment as Under-Secretary-General for counter-

terrorism and to wish him every success. We would also like to affirm our full support to him and to his Office, as part of our firm, unwavering position on the importance of addressing and eradicating terrorism.

The Secretary-General's report (A/71/858), issued in April, notes that the Office's main functions are, first, to lead United Nations counter-terrorism efforts; secondly, to ensure coordination across the Organization's 38 counter-terrorism entities; thirdly, to strengthen its capacity-building; fourthly, to provide new resources for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts; and, lastly, to integrate counter-terrorism activities throughout the United Nations system and its work. It is important to emphasize that the full implementation of all those functions requires continuing consultation and coordination with Member States in order to ensure that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is implemented in a balanced, effective way that will eventually result in more efficient use of the resources available to build Member States' capacity to counter terrorism.

The challenges that the nations of the world are facing today in the fight against terrorism include the return of foreign terrorist fighters to their countries of origin and the liberation from terrorist groups of vast areas captured during conflict. Another is the task of cutting off terrorism's sources of financing. For that we need a mechanism that all countries and regional and international organizations can participate in with the goal of helping Member States to exchange information, build their capacity to face these challenges, confront terrorist ideologies and prevent terrorists from exploiting social media. It is therefore vital to our interests, and to our people's prospects for a secure life in future, to ensure that the Office can carry out its tasks successfully.

It will also be important for the new Office to address the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism. I am pleased to be able to inform the Council that Jordan and Norway are now working together to establish a group of friends for countering violent extremism, to be officially announced in the next few weeks. Its aims will include providing political support to the Office in its balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, raising awareness about the conditions conducive to violent extremism and encouraging support for communities and respect for human rights. The group will also emphasize the importance of young people and women's active participation in efforts to address the issue.

In conclusion, Jordan looks forward to wor with the Under-Secretary-General and head of Office of Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Voronkov, and partners, in order to do what is necessary to cou terrorism. Combating terrorism in order to ach sustainable peace is important for human kind.

Mr. Boutaqa (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): A me first and foremost to thank you, Madam Presi for convening this meeting, which allows us to exa measures to eliminate international terrorism.

My delegation welcomes the report of the Secre General (A/71/858), issued in implementatio resolution 70/291.

The fifth review of the United Nations G Counter-Terrorism Strategy, held in July 2016, wa important event in terms of applying important cha to the United Nations counter-terrorism architec Indeed, during the course of that review, Member S noted the existence of a number of anomalies, ov and duplication in the work of the United Nations time when terrorism continues to spread and to tak global dimensions. Hence the adoption on 1 July of resolution 70/291, which calls for the revitaliz of the capacity of the United Nations system to sup Member States in their balanced implementation o United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. aim is to improve synergies and coherence and to overlap in and the dispersal of the United Nations in that area.

The positive and rapid reaction of the Secre General, within a mere month of his coming into of proposing bold measures in application of parag 70 of the aforementioned resolution, with the pur of providing renewed impetus to the United Na counter-terrorism architecture, is of unparal importance. Those measures, in large part, addre the expectations of Member States, including Kingdom of Morocco.

In moving forward, we have not hesitate provide our unfailing full support to the Secre General with regard to the establishment of the O of Counter-Terrorism under the direction of an U Secretary-General. My delegation would like to this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Vlad Voronkov on his appointment as head of the Offi Counter-Terrorism. It is a difficult mission at a mo where terrorists are making use of the most adva technologies to perpetrate attacks and to spread t

and division across societies and nations. In that regard, my delegation reiterates that terrorism should not be connected to any religion, civilization or ethnic group.

In particular, the Kingdom of Morocco, which has been involved in nearly all United Nations initiatives and actions in the fight against terrorism, and which is a member of the advisory board of the Counter-Terrorism Centre, extends the necessary support to Mr. Vladimir Voronkov so that he may best fulfil his mandate. Morocco has signed the majority of counter-terrorism instruments and has developed its own national strategy. That strategy, inspired by the pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, has been adapted to the national context. Morocco has integrated a restrictive component through the mobilization of the security and justice sectors, and has also adopted preventive measures through the undertaking of political, economic, social, cultural, educational and religious reforms.

Religious reform, in particular via the training of young preachers, male and female, in the precepts of Islam, is based on the values of dialogue, tolerance, moderation, peaceful coexistence and mutual respect, as taught by the Islamic religion. In addition, a deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration programme for demobilized foreign terrorist fighters has been put in place. The Kingdom of Morocco is an active participant in the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, of which it is the co-Chair and of which the eighth ministerial meeting will be held in September. The Kingdom of Morocco is willing to work with the United Nations and the new Office at the bilateral and triangular levels in order to provide the necessary support and to share its experience and know-how with interested States.

My delegation has been clear about its vision of the fight against terrorism. The Office of Counter-Terrorism, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, should coordinate United Nations system counter-terrorism activities. That is an important aspect. It is also important to promote the work of and harmonize the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture, including opening it up to initiatives beyond the United Nations framework, including the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum. The Forum has adopted important documents that are particularly relevant to ensuring an effective struggle against terrorism. Furthermore, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, which plays a key role in strengthening Member State capacity, should continue to play its role in responding to the demands of Member States.

Finally, it is important to underline the central role of the United Nations in the struggle against terrorism. That role should not be exercised to the detriment of the Secretary-General's proactive and open approach to initiatives and forums, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum. Moreover, Member States should also cooperate among one another at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels in order to ensure border security and counter radicalization.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

Several representatives have asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply. May I remind members that statements in the exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to five minutes for the second intervention and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Heumann (Israel): I apologize for needing to take the floor a second time but, given one of the statements we heard earlier, I am required to do so.

I sometimes wonder if it is worth the effort to reply seriously to the Iranian representative, who has shamelessly sat here and attacked my country while his country continues to promote terrorism and destabilize the whole Middle East. This is the representative of a regime that not only arms terrorist organizations, but also bolsters the murderous Al-Assad regime in Syria. Iran does all this while blatantly violating Security Council resolutions. As one example, it continues to develop a ballistic-missile programme in violation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). It even went so far as to launch a ballistic missile onto a very specific and intentional target that had the Star of David on it. This is a direct and unacceptable threat by one Member State against another.

So, given this reality, attempts by the representative of the Iranian regime to attack my country and accuse Israel enjoy no credibility and can serve only as an attempt to divert discussions, which we cannot allow.

Mr. Nasimfar (Islamic Republic of Iran): I asked for the floor to reply to the senseless rhetoric in the statement of the representative of the Israeli regime.

Countering and addressing terrorism and its root causes cannot be considered separate from addressing

the occupation and the terrorist activities of the Israeli regime. That is why States Members of the United Nations, in the fifth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, reaffirmed their determination to continue to do all they can to end foreign occupation.

With a long record of terrorism, the Israeli regime is well known as the single best example of sponsoring State terrorism. Despite numerous calls by the international community, the regime has been stubborn in following its illegitimate policies based on occupation, intimidation and terror. Israel's dark network of agents has conducted deadly terror operations all over the world, including in my country. The brutal assassination of innocent Iranian scientists is just one example.

It is also an established fact that Israeli agents provide support to the Al-Nusra Front and other terrorist groups operating in Syria. Unfortunately, the gravest systematic and widespread act of terror is under way in the occupied Palestinian territory. In the absence of a unified international response to end such abhorrent illegal and brutal occupation, the occupier continues to commit war crimes and crimes against humanity and impose collective punishment on the Palestinian people before the eyes of the international community without fear and punishment.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 118?

The meeting rose at 4 p.m.

United Nations A/71/PV.95

General Assembly
Seventy-first session

Official Records

95th plenary meeting
Monday, 28 August 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Thomson ..... (Fiji)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Bhattarai (Nepal), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 138 *(continued)*

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (A/71/764/Add.8)

The Acting President: Before proceeding, in keeping with the established practice, I would like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/71/764/Add.8, in which the Secretary-General informs the President of the General Assembly that, since the issuance of his communication contained in document A/71/764/Add.7, Libya has made the payments necessary to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

May I take it that the General Assembly duly takes note of the information contained in document A/71/764/Add.8?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 111

Notification by the Secretary-General under Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations

Note by the Secretary-General (A/71/300)

The Acting President: As members are aware, in accordance with the provisions of Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations and with the consent of the Security Council, the Secretary-General is mandated to notify the General Assembly of matters relative to the maintenance of international peace and security that are being dealt with by the Security Council and of matters with which the Council has ceased to deal. In that connection, the General Assembly has before it a note by the Secretary-General issued as document A/71/300.

May I take it that the Assembly takes note of that document?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 111?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 28

Report of the Security Council

Report of the Security Council (A/71/2)

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the President of the Security Council, His Excellency Ambassador Amr Abdellatif Aboulatta, to introduce the report of the Security Council.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt), President of the Security Council: I would like to thank the President for organizing today's meeting. As President of the Security Council for the month of August, it is my honour to introduce the annual report of the Council

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

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(A/71/2), which covers the period from 1 August 2015 to 31 December 2016.

I extend my thanks to the delegation of Japan, which, as President of the Security Council in July 2016, prepared the introduction of the report. Members of the Council also contributed to the preparation of the report. I also extend my thanks to the Secretariat for compiling the rest of the report, and to all those involved in producing it.

The present report incorporates changes mandated in the note by the President dated 10 December 2015 (S/2015/944). The decision took into account the views of the Member States expressed during the debate on the agenda item entitled "Report of the Security Council" at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly (see A/70/PV.51) and in the thematic debates of the Security Council on its working methods, as well as during the intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform. Thereafter, the period of coverage for all future reports shall be from 1 January to 31 December.

The Charter of the United Nations entrusts the Security Council with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council, with the support of the United Nations membership, has sought to actively discharge its responsibilities, while urging the peaceful resolution of conflicts and undertaking a series of peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities all over the world.

During the period under review, which covered 17 months due to the transition to the new reporting framework, the Council adopted 102 resolutions and 31 presidential statements, and issued 150 statements to the press. The Council held 356 formal meetings, of which 331 were public.

The situation in Africa remained a focus of the Council. Frequent meetings were held on Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan, and South Sudan. The situation in the Middle East figured prominently on the Council's agenda as well. Meetings were held on the situation in Libya, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, the Palestinian question, the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force and Lebanon. The Council also regularly monitored the situation in Afghanistan. The Council periodically considered the situation in and around Ukraine and continued to monitor the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Council conducted five missions to Africa, which included Burundi in January; Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Senegal in March; Somalia and Kenya in May; South Sudan in September; and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola in November 2015. The Council also visited African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa during its missions in January and September 2015, and the League of Arab States in Cairo in May 2015.

The Council established the United Nations Mission in Colombia in January 2016 by resolution 2261 (2016). In the same period, two missions — the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Mission in Liberia — were reaching the final stages of their deployment.

Thematic, general and cross-cutting issues remained a priority for the Council, including non-proliferation, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, the protection of civilians in armed conflict, children and armed conflict, women and peace and security, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding, security sector reform, sanctions, cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, peace and security in Africa and the rule of law. The Council convened two annual open debates on its working methods. After the second debate, in July 2016 (see S/PV.7740), the Council and interested delegations from the wider membership, looked at the implementation of note S/2010/507 and other relevant notes to identify successful practices as well as possible shortcomings, and considered making necessary adjustments. The Informal Working Group on Documentation and other Procedural Questions started deliberations on the specific ideas and proposals made at the open debate, and is currently working to finalize its work on reviewing and updating note 507.

The Council considered the work of the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda and continued to monitor situations that it had referred to the International Criminal Court concerning the situation in Darfur and Libya.

Following six rounds of straw polls, the first of which was held in July 2016, the Council adopted by acclamation resolution 2311 (2016), which recommended to the General Assembly that Mr. António Guterres be appointed Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of office from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2021. On 14 December, the Council adopted by

and formation resolution 2324 (2016), paying tribute to outgoing Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

I look forward to this morning's discussion of the report by Member States and will convey the views of members of the General Assembly to my colleagues in the Security Council.

Ms. Sapag Muñoz de la Peña (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): Chile welcomes the submission of the latest report of the Security Council (A/71/2), as it contributes to the needed transparency and accountability of the Council to the Assembly regarding decisions and measures adopted for the maintenance of international peace and security.

We highlight section 3, part III, entitled, "Other matters considered by the Security Council", which sets forth its recommendation for the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General and the new process for doing so — with a summary of meetings, consultations, resolutions and communications of the Council in that regard. Although we would have appreciated a more analytic approach in this area, the report we have before us today is an important public record for following-up on the selection and appointment process and on the candidates presented, thereby setting a precedent for future reports and, in that way, contributing to the transparency of information within the system as well as guaranteeing the standards implemented and improvement of the system, as seen in starting the process of the joint letter from the respective Presidents of the Assembly and the Council of 15 December 2015 (A/70/623) pursuant to the criteria set forth in resolution 69/321.

With regard to the question of application of the note by the President of the Security Council contained in document S/2010/507, we note with interest the reference to the note by the President of the Security Council contained in document S/2016/619, on measures to facilitate the preparation of newly elected members and to improve the process of selection and preparation of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, a matter that we urge continue to be addressed when note 507 is updated.

The annual report should be a useful tool for accountability with respect to the working methods of the Council, and therefore a section of the report should be dedicated to this subject, which should include a record of the progress made in implementing the notes by the President and other working methods, as recommended by Member States and the Accountability Coherence and Transparency group, of which Chile is a member. As is the case with the report we are discussing today, we hope that future Council reports will continue to reflect the progress and challenges faced by the Council with regard to its working methods, including improved use of the instruments at its disposal to ensure transparency and legitimacy in its work, such as recapitulative meetings, which is an important formal tool at the disposal of non-permanent members that, in our judgment, is poorly utilized.

Finally, we urge that the Council's decisions on peacekeeping under resolution 70/262 be addressed and reflected in greater detail in future reports of the Security Council.

Mrs. Rodríguez Abascal (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): Our delegation welcomes the convening of today's meeting to discuss the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly for the period from 1 August 2015 to 31 December 2016 (A/71/2).

Cuba regrets that, as in previous years, the report is merely a descriptive account of meetings, activities and decisions of the Council, whereas the vast majority of the States Members of the United Nations have reiterated the need for an annual report on the work of the Security Council that is exhaustive and analytical. How much longer will we have to wait for this formal and insubstantial procedure to become an exercise of genuine accountability to the General Assembly that allows all Member States to assess the causes and implications of actions undertaken by the Security Council? We reiterate that, in carrying out the functions incumbent upon it as part of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council acts in the name of all Member States. As such, the Council must comply with the obligation established in Articles 15 and 24 of the Charter to submit special reports on its work for consideration by the General Assembly.

Cuba reiterates its concern about the lack of transparency and democracy in the Security Council. While there has been an increase during the period under review in the number of public meetings and an unprecedented process of consultation and exchanges with Member States during the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, the Council continues to tend to work fundamentally in private

and to make decisions without taking into account the concerns of non-permanent members.

Urgent changes in the working methods of the Security Council that allow true participation by all its members in its work and in the decision-making process are required. That includes formalizing its rules of procedure, which have remained provisional for over 70 years. Accordingly, Cuba once again proposes that the closed-door consultations in the Security Council be the exception; that its membership be extended in the two categories — permanent and non-permanent — without selective or discriminatory criteria, with the aim of finding a remedy for the insufficient representation of developing countries in the Council; and that there no longer exist the obsolete and undemocratic right to veto.

Besides changes in the working methods and the composition of the members of the Security Council, the Council should adjust its functions to the mandate established in the Charter and observe all General Assembly resolutions, the main body for deliberation, policymaking and representation in the United Nations. The trend of the Security Council to consider issues and assume functions that do not belong to it, thereby usurping the role assigned to other organs, particularly the General Assembly, must end. We stress the need for an appropriate balance between the principal organs of the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter.

No reform of the United Nations, including the one currently being promoted, will be effective or real without a thorough process of reform of the Security Council. What is urgently needed is a truly transparent, representative, democratic and efficient Security Council.

Ms. Jáquez Huacuja (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): Transparency and accountability in the relations between the Security Council and the General Assembly, in accordance with the Assembly's powers set forth in Articles 15 and 24 of the Charter of the United Nations, are indispensable principles for the Council's communication with the other members of the Organization. Strengthening the relationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council is a key and unequivocal need to address global challenges in the maintenance of international peace and security in an efficient and coordinated manner.

Although the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly in recent years has improved substantially, there are areas where further progress is required. For example, the content of the report should be less descriptive and should, on the contrary, focus on encouraging a genuine exercise of reflection by the General Assembly. It would be very useful to have special reports submitted to the General Assembly on a thematic basis on issues of international concern affecting the maintenance of international peace and security. Moreover, it would also be desirable for the report to include a section on draft resolutions or Council measures that were voted on and on which no agreement was reached in order to promote greater accountability in maintaining international peacekeeping and security.

On that preceding point, Mexico, together with France, has been actively promoting a voluntary restriction of the use of the veto by the permanent members of the Security Council in cases of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Both countries have been working together for more than two years to maintain momentum in the process, which we hope will result in the establishment of a voluntary and collective agreement among the five permanent members of the Council to achieve this goal.

The veto is not a privilege, but a responsibility of permanent members in maintaining international peace and security. We acknowledge that the only viable and realistic possibility for restricting its use lies in its regulation through the identification of exceptions. Therefore, we invite countries that have not yet done so, including the permanent members of the Council, to join in supporting this Franco-Mexican initiative.

We welcome the fact that the Security Council addresses issues of interest to the international community and to Mexico, through public and open debates, not only as a way to contribute to inclusion and interaction between the Council and the rest of the membership, but also as a tool to contribute to transparency, legitimacy and to promote greater effectiveness.

In the case of peacekeeping operations, as a troop-contributing country, Mexico is convinced that the constant adaptation of operations to respond to new challenges and paradigms related to maintaining international peace and security remains the United Nations most visible and emblematic political tool to address these challenges.

A clear example in that regard is the conclusion of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

to make way for the new United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti. That points to a favourable development of the situation in that country and demonstrates the important efforts being made jointly by the United Nations and the Government of Haiti to achieve stability and security in the country, which will guarantee the basis for a sustainable and lasting peace and ensure that Haiti effectively meets the Sustainable Development Goals. Similarly, we note the coordination between the Security Council and the Government of Colombia and the support of the international community for the peace process in that country, which is an example of political will and collaboration that we should all bear in mind.

Finally, Mexico welcomes the attention accorded by the Security Council to the paradigm shift represented by the concept of sustainable peace, the implementation of which will redirect the work of the United Nations in a coherent and cross-cutting way throughout the Organization towards a more sophisticated and peace-oriented approach by building capacities and tools to address conflicts in every phase and prevent conflicts by focusing on their causes. Mexico chairs the Group of Friends of Sustaining Peace, which brings together 36 countries from different regions that share an interest in coordinating efforts to continue reflecting on a cross-cutting and more long-term understanding and implementation of the concept of sustainable peace in the United Nations.

Mr. Gafoor (Singapore): We thank the members of the Security Council and the Secretariat for producing the annual report of the Security Council (A/71/2). I also thank the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative of Egypt, for presenting the report earlier this morning.

The annual debate on the report of the Security Council has become a ritual, and by describing this discussion as a ritual it is not my intention to diminish its importance. Rituals are indeed important in organizations, especially in our Organization. From Singapore's point of view, this annual debate is an opportunity for United Nations Members to comment on the work of the Security Council. This annual debate establishes the important point that there is a link between the work of the General Assembly and the Security Council and that the Security Council does not work in isolation.

I also wish to express my disappointment about the fact that the decision to schedule this debate today was made very late. Also, the report was finalized and circulated very late. This gives Member States very little time to prepare for a serious and substantive debate. I said earlier that this debate has become a ritual, but we have to make this a meaningful ritual. We should give members enough time to study the documents so that they can come prepared to contribute constructively. If Member States are not given adequate time, this will indeed become a meaningless ritual, and that surely is not our intention, either in the General Assembly or in the Security Council.

Let me now make some comments on the substance of the report.

In our view, the report provides a good overview of the activities of the Council for the period from 1 August 2015 to 31 December 2016. We welcome the move to align the report with the calendar year. We would like to make some suggestions to improve the content of the report so that it can aid Council members, as well as the wider membership and the international community, in assessing the work of the Council and its effectiveness in addressing threats to international peace and security.

First, the annual report could be more analytical and informative. Instead of simply and factually listing the number of meetings held, the resolutions and statements adopted and the number of missions organized, we think that more effort should be made towards a more analytical narrative. For example, how much of the Council's time during the reporting period was spent on which subjects? How many products were issued on which topics? Of each new resolution adopted, to what extent were its provisions implemented?

It would also be useful to have a summary of the results and outcomes achieved, if any at all, during the reporting period. One way could be to compare the situations at the beginning and the end of the reporting period for each section of the report. What were the key developments, for example? What impact did the 102 Council resolutions, the 31 presidential statements and 150 press statements have? The Council's mandate costs the General Assembly between $7 and $8 billion each year. What were the key substantive outcomes of that expenditure on the Council's decisions? Have its operations brought about tangible improvements on the ground? At least, what is our assessment of the progress

made in terms of improving the situation on the ground? The General Assembly has a right to know, and the international community has a right to know. We would encourage greater thought to be given to indicators and benchmarks for the Council's performance in fulfilling its responsibility for addressing threats to international peace and security.

Secondly, the annual report should be more complete and more comprehensive. Monthly assessment reports should be completed and circulated by every Security Council President as part of the process of finalizing the annual report. Paragraph 8 of the report states that those monthly assessments can be found online. We note that for the reporting period, only five have been uploaded, and reports from 12 members of the Council, including four permanent members, are still missing. Why is that? As we work to strive for more openness and transparency in the work of the United Nations, we find it surprising that some countries that have had the privilege of serving on the Council — including some whose terms have expired — have not yet published the assessments of their presidencies.

Thirdly, on a broader level, we think that the annual report could be improved by aligning it better with the repertoire. The repertoire provides institutional memory for the Council's evolving practice. There would certainly be greater utility in aligning the calendars of those two documents and leveraging the historical perspective that the repertoire can give the annual report. It would give the membership a better sense of how mandates have evolved, a grasp of how the Council has responded to particular situations and a way to assess the Council's impact and effectiveness over time.

To that end, we are pleased to note that the Council is reviewing and updating presidential note S/2010/507 to include new proposals and ideas on how it can improve its work. We look forward to seeing it adopted and circulated as soon as possible. The issue of the Council's working methods, particularly the ongoing efforts to improve transparency and effectiveness, is an important one for many countries, especially small States. We hope that the Council members will take this task seriously and continue working to make the Council more open, transparent, efficient and effective.

Lastly, we note from the annual report that not all the Council's subsidiary bodies have convened formal meetings. In our view, they should all hold at least one formal meeting a year. The purpose of such meetings is to give each subsidiary body a chance to report to the wider United Nations membership on the outcome of its work during the year. That in turn, we believe, would enhance the transparency of the Council's work.

The annual report of the Security Council, and today's plenary meeting, are important avenues whereby the wider United Nations membership can provide its input and views on the Council's work. We have submitted our suggestions with the aim of helping to improve the transparency and openness of that work. In turn, we hope that will help to promote greater accountability and more effective action on the part of the Security Council. We hope that Council members listening to this debate will work to improve the content and format of the annual report next year. Improving its openness and transparency should be a common endeavour that we should all strive for, and we should all strive to make this annual ritual a meaningful and substantive one.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would first like to express my thanks for the presentation of the report (A/71/2) on the past 17 months of the work of the Security Council, which from now on will become an actual annual report that I believe will provide us with a more in-depth analysis of its content. The report that the Egyptian presidency of the Council presented to us today has begun to take account of the recommendations of many Member States as well as the conclusions reached in meetings and debates on the Council's working methods as they relate to the content of the report, which is moving towards the greater degree of transparency, accountability and openness that we need in this presentation, one that is so important to the General Assembly. However, in the coming years, we hope that there will be more analysis and less description, with elements that will give insight into the Council's fundamental task of seeking and maintaining peace and security, as provided for in the Charter of the United Nations.

Where the report concerns my country, I would like to express Colombia's thanks for the Security Council's continuing support to our peace process through the United Nations Mission in Colombia, which is discussed in the report, and to the rest of the process, which I am sure will be included in the next Security Council report with regard to the progress of the first and second special missions in 2017. Security Council resolution 2307 (2016) and the special political

mission approved in July are concrete examples of the results of the Council's determined efforts for peace. We hope that an analysis of this in the next annual report will be helpful to other special political missions and peacekeeping operations. Once again, we thank the Security Council for today's presentation and we hope that in the next few years to seeing our needs, as Member States, covered with greater transparency, analysis and commitment to the purpose that we all share.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the report of the Security Council contained in document A/71/2?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 28?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 13 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Draft resolution (A/71/L.83)

The Acting President: Before proceeding further, I would like to make the following corrections to draft resolution A/71/L.83 in order to revert to language that was agreed on during the negotiations.

In the first line of operative paragraph 7, the word "intergovernmental" should be added before the words "High-level Conference". Operative paragraph 8 (a) should be combined with operative paragraph 8 to form a single paragraph that will then read "Invites other relevant stakeholders", with the rest continuing. Subsequently, paragraph 8 (b) will be renumbered to read 8 (a). Also, the word "invites" will be added before the words "non-governmental organizations". Furthermore, the word "intergovernmental" will be added before the words "high-level conference". The paragraph will read:

> "Invites non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the intergovernmental high-level conference."

Paragraph 9 will be renumbered to read 8 (b), and the subsequent paragraphs will be renumbered. In the new paragraph 8 (b), the word "proposed" will be added to the second-to-last line so that it reads: "to submit the proposed list to Member States", and so forth.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/71/L.83, entitled "Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation", as orally corrected.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/71/L.83, as orally corrected?

Draft resolution A/71/L.83, as orally corrected, was adopted (resolution 71/318).

The Acting President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of vote after the voting, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Kimmel (United States of America): The United States joined in the consensus adoption of resolution 71/318, which establishes the modalities for the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. We would like to thank Argentina for its generous offer to cover associated costs for the planned 2019 Conference in Buenos Aires.

We would like to also take this opportunity, however, to briefly explain our position on key issues, as highlighted during the negotiation process, and in line with reform efforts that the Secretary-General and Member States are currently undertaking.

These key issues deal with a central reform question: the discussion of how the United Nations should best deploy its limited resources to meet the critical and expanding needs of the world. We continue to believe that our priority must be on improving people's lives. We, as Member States, must do better in our efforts to curb spending on meetings, conferences and unproductive exercises. Throughout the negotiation process we expressed serious concerns about two items in the resolution that we do not believe are the most efficient use of our limited resources.

An intergovernmental negotiation for an agreed outcome and the possibility of annual meetings on the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation will both require spending United Nations and Member State resources on negotiations that could otherwise be diverted to people in need in developing countries. We believe that these are valid concerns in light of the Secretary-General's reform initiative, the aim of which is to promote efficiency, effectiveness and results in all United Nations activities.

In addition we believe that the transparency and accountability of the United Nations in promoting South-South cooperation is very important. We welcome efforts to make United Nations South-South cooperation bureaucracies more efficient, effective, transparent and accountable, as called for in last year's resolution 70/222.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Adonia Ayebare of Uganda, President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, for having skilfully laid out the complex consultations on this important matter, as well as to the Bureau of the High-Level Committee for their steadfast support throughout. I also thank Member States for their valuable contributions to reaching an agreement on resolution 71/318.

The General Assembly has concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 13.

Agenda item 106 (*continued*)

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Draft resolution (A/71/L.81)

The Acting President: The General Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/71/L.81, entitled "Draft outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons".

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/71/L.81?

Draft resolution A/71/L.81 was adopted (resolution 71/319).

The Acting President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of vote after the voting, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Lind (Estonia): The European Union (EU) and its member States welcome the adoption today of resolution 71/319, transmitting the draft political declaration on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons for adoption at the high-level meeting in September. The EU would first like to commend the dedicated work of the Permanent Representatives of Qatar and Belgium as co-facilitators of the consultations that secured this positive result. The draft political declaration constitutes a wide-ranging basis for invigorated efforts to eliminate trafficking, including by highlighting clear linkages with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, addressing the demand that sustains it and ensuring support for victims and respect for their human rights.

As the draft declaration underscores, action is needed on many fronts, from implementing key international instruments and developing national strategies to the United Nations focusing on situations of heightened vulnerability, including in conflict, and ensuring its own procurement is free of trafficking.

Notwithstanding these positive elements, the EU had hoped that the declaration would include stronger references to recommendations made by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. The EU believes that all relevant actors must be mobilized to ensure a more effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including Governments, regional and international organizations, civil society, national human rights institutions and the private sector. In that regard we would have wished to see more robust language on national human rights institutions in the political declaration. Moreover, we do not regard the final text relating to these institutions as a compelling precedent.

The EU would also encourage all States members of the United Nations to pay heed to the encouragement included in the modalities resolution for the high-level meeting to consider including in their delegations representatives of national human rights institutions, law enforcement, civil society, trafficking survivors and the private sector.

In conclusion, I assure the Assembly that the EU and its member States are determined to intensify our contribution to global efforts to address the scourge of trafficking, including through policy and funding endeavours, and we look forward to a fruitful high-level meeting in September and to bringing added impetus to our collective efforts in this domain.

Mr. Wheeler (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. In our national capacity, I would like to reinforce four points.

First, trafficking is a global problem that demands a global response. In that regard, the United Kingdom supports the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and welcomes this political declaration. We are especially pleased that the declaration articulates a holistic response, makes linkages to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and includes a clear focus on conflict. We are open to further discussion on how, in practice, these measures are taken forward.

Secondly, we hope that Member States will continue to engage with the experts. For example, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking In Persons (ICAT) proposed that it be tasked to address definitional issues. This practical recommendation did not, unfortunately, make it into the final political declaration. We hope that ideas such as these will be revisited through upcoming processes.

Thirdly, the Plan of Action calls for improved coordination. It is critical that we, as Member States, continue to promote a more coherent response across all three pillars of the United Nations. We look forward to being informed by the Secretary-General of his efforts. We are open to ideas on how ICAT can be strengthened.

Fourthly, coherent action by the United Nations is necessary but not sufficient. At the end of the day, Member States themselves must take action on the scourge of trafficking in persons. This in turn will be dependent on political leadership. That is why my Prime Minister will focus significant attention on human trafficking, modern slavery and forced labour during the high-level week of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. The United Kingdom hopes to use the collective presence of world leaders to create a sense of greater urgency on these issues. We hope that this will generate momentum ahead of the high-level meeting on the Global Plan of Action that will take place the following week.

The Acting President: I would like to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani of Qatar and Ambassador Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve of Belgium, the co-facilitators of the informal consultations, who demonstrated great ability and patience in their conduct of the discussions and complex negotiations on the draft outcome document. I also thank Member States for their valuable contributions to reaching an agreement on the draft outcome document.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 106?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.